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Green future: India leads clean energy rush P11

I don't need to change personality for captaincy, says Shreyas Iyer P12

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INDIA bloc vows united fight, plans meetings, CJI letter

Opposition alliance resolves coordinated strategy, electoral reforms push & unity

NEW DELHI

The INDIA bloc on Monday sought to project unity and strengthen coordination among opposition parties, announcing a series of decisions aimed at sharpening its political strategy ahead of upcoming parliamentary battles and state elections.

Leaders of 25 opposition parties met in New Delhi and agreed to hold regular consultations every two months, with the next INDIA bloc meeting scheduled for August 8 in Hyderabad. The gathering came amid recent electoral setbacks for some alliance partners and reports of differences among constituent parties.

Addressing the media after the meeting, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge said the alliance had unanimously decided to write to the Chief Justice of India regarding the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) exercise, alleging electoral irregularities and concerns over voter rolls.

The bloc also resolved to demand the resignation of the Union Education Minister over alleged lapses in the conduct of NEET and CBSE examinations, arguing that the interests of lakhs of students had been compromised.

To ensure greater coordination during the forthcoming Monsoon Session of Parliament, alliance leaders agreed to conduct regular strategy meetings at the office of the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha.

The move is intended to present a united front on key legislative and political issues.

While most major opposition leaders attended the meeting, the DMK and Aam Aadmi Party stayed away. Shiv Sena (UBT) chief Uddhav Thackeray and Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren participated virtually.

Leaders across parties reiterated the need to safeguard democratic institutions, protect constitutional values and raise issues affecting people's livelihoods. Photographs shared by Congress after the meeting carried the slogan "United We Stand", underscoring the alliance's effort to display cohesion despite recent strains.

"It was agreed to send a letter to the Chief Justice of India on SIR, vote loot and stealing elections. The letter will be delivered very soon."

-Mallikarjun Kharge, Congress President

INDIA Bloc Meeting Highlights

- Parties represented: 25
- Next meeting: **August 8, Hyderabad**
- Key decision: **Letter to CJI on SIR**
- Parliament plan: **Regular coordination meetings**
- **Demand:** Education Minister's resignation

Opposition closes ranks despite absentees

Despite the absence of the DMK and AAP, INDIA bloc leaders stressed that the alliance remains committed to collective action against the BJP-led NDA. The meeting focused on strengthening coordination, improving parliamentary strategy and maintaining regular consultations among partners. Leaders said the alliance would continue raising issues related to democracy, elections and public welfare while presenting a united opposition platform ahead of crucial political contests.

Congress slams BJP over RS snub to Deve Gowda

BENGALURU

The ruling Congress in Karnataka on Monday launched a sharp attack on the BJP after it denied a Rajya Sabha nomination to former Prime Minister and JD(S) patriarch H.D. Deve Gowda, calling the move an insult to both the regional party and the people of Karnataka.

The controversy erupted after the BJP announced the candidature of Prof. M. Nagaraja for the Rajya Sabha election from Karnataka, overlooking Deve Gowda, whose current term in the Upper House ends on June 25.

Congress general secretary and Karnataka in-charge Randeep Singh Surjewala accused the BJP of humiliating its ally JD(S) despite benefiting from its support in Parliament. He also criticised Union Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy for accepting what he termed a public slight to his father and party.

State Congress President B.K. Hariprasad said the BJP had betrayed Karnataka by sidelining a former Prime Minister who had represented the state for decades in national politics.

The BJP, however, has not publicly responded to the criticism. The Rajya Sabha election in Karnataka is scheduled as four seats fall vacant later this month.

"The BJP and the NDA have insulted the people of Karnataka. No one expected them to betray like this after taking the support of JD(S) and Deve Gowda for passing various Bills in Parliament. People will punish the BJP in the days ahead."

B.K. Hariprasad, KPCC President

RS Polls – Karnataka

- Seats going to polls: 4
- Term ends: June 25, 2026
- BJP candidate: Prof. M. Nagaraja
- Cong candidates: Mallikarjun Kharge, Mansoor Ali Khan, Pawan Khera

Assembly Strength

- Congress: 135 MLAs
- BJP: 62 MLAs
- JD(S): 18 MLAs
- Total House Strength: 224

Key Issue

- BJP did not renominate H.D. Deve Gowda
- Congress terms decision an "insult"
- Debate intensifies within BJP-JD(S) alliance politics ahead of the Rajya Sabha elections.

CM urges party workers to stay united and focus ahead

CM Shivakumar calls for unity, sets sights on 2028 Assembly polls

BENGALURU

Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar called upon Congress leaders and workers to put aside internal differences and work collectively to ensure the party's victory in the 2028 Karnataka Assembly elections.

Addressing Congress leaders and workers from Hunsur, who met him at the Kumara Krupa Government Guest House in Bengaluru to congratulate him, Shivakumar stressed the importance of unity and teamwork in strengthening the party at the grassroots level.

The delegation, led by former MLA Manjunath and Mysuru-based Congress leader and spokesperson M. Lakshman, extended their greetings to the Chief Minister following his recent elevation.

Shivakumar urged party members to forget past misunderstandings, rivalries and grievances, stating that political setbacks and disagreements should not distract them from the larger objective of serving the people and building a stronger organisation.

He said the position of Chief Minister was not a personal achievement but a responsibility entrusted by party workers and the people of Karnataka. According to him, the support, trust and hard work of Congress workers across the state had played a major role in his political journey.

The Chief Minister also cautioned party workers to remain vigilant regarding the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls and ensure that eligible voters are not deprived of their voting rights.

Reiterating the need for unity, he urged workers not to lose focus or become complacent. He said protecting every vote and maintaining close contact with the electorate would be crucial in the coming years.

"Forget party differences and move forward together. Your goal should be to win the 2028 Assembly elections and bring the party back to power with greater strength."

—D.K. Shivakumar, CM

Tehran halts attacks on Israel, warns against further strikes on Lebanon

TEHRAN

Iran on Monday announced the end of its military operations against Israel but warned that any renewed attacks on Lebanon or Iranian territory would trigger a stronger response. The statement came after a fresh exchange of missile strikes between the two regional rivals. Iranian forces launched attacks following Israeli strikes linked to Hezbollah targets in the southern suburbs of Beirut. Israel later carried out retaliatory strikes on locations in Iran, with explosions reported in Tehran, Tabriz and Isfahan. Iran's armed forces said the operations had concluded for now but cautioned that any future aggression would be met with "a more crushing" response. The latest escalation has raised fears of a wider regional conflict despite ongoing diplomatic efforts to preserve a fragile ceasefire. Regional powers and international mediators continue to push for restraint as tensions remain high across West Asia.

TMC faces fresh turmoil as 20 MPs back NDA, write to Speaker

NEW DELHI

The political crisis within the Trinamool Congress (TMC) deepened on Monday after senior MP Kakoli Ghosh Dastidar claimed that nearly 20 Lok Sabha members of the party had written to Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla expressing their desire to support the National Democratic Alliance (NDA).

The move marks a significant escalation in the turmoil gripping the Mamata Banerjee-led party following its recent electoral setbacks and internal dissent. According to Ghosh Dastidar, the MPs have informed the Speaker of their decision while choosing not to resign from the TMC immediately. Claiming that she continues to be the party's chief whip in the Lok Sabha, Ghosh Dastidar said the decision was taken after consultations among fellow parliamentarians. The dissident group reportedly plans to function as a separate parliamentary bloc while extending support to the NDA.

The development comes days after divisions surfaced within the party's legislative wing in West Bengal, where a section of MLAs defied the leadership's choice for Leader of the Opposition. Sources in the rebel camp indicated that the MPs believe aligning with the NDA reflects the public mandate. The move could have major implications for the TMC's parliamentary strength and its role within the opposition alliance at the national level.

TMC Parliamentary Numbers

- Lok Sabha MPs: 28
- Rajya Sabha MPs: 12
- MPs backing NDA claim: 20
- Anti-defection threshold: Two-thirds
- Letter sent to: LS Speaker Om Birla

Challenge for Mamata leadership

The latest rebellion has transformed internal discontent into a full-fledged parliamentary challenge for the TMC leadership. While the dissident MPs have not formally resigned from the party, their decision to support the NDA could weaken the party's influence in Parliament and complicate its role within the opposition bloc.

HM takes swipe at BJP, RSS after threat accused arrested

BENGALURU

Karnataka Home Minister Priyank Kharge on Monday launched a fresh attack on the BJP and the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) after the arrest of a man accused of issuing death threats and making casteist remarks against him on social media.

The remarks came shortly after Karkala Town Police arrested Sudhir Bangera, who allegedly posted abusive and threatening content targeting the minister on Facebook.

Kharge accused the BJP of using RSS workers to intimidate political opponents and renewed his demand for the organisation to formally register.

Sharing screenshots of the alleged threats on social media, Kharge said the reaction from his critics reflected their anxiety following his assumption of office as Home Minister.

Kharge has repeatedly questioned the legal status of the RSS. Earlier this year, he argued that organisations receiving donations should be registered under the law and suggested that legislative measures could be considered if the RSS continued to remain unregistered.

PHILIPPINES QUAKE TRAGEDY

7.8 quake kills 32 in Philippines, triggers tsunami alerts

MANILA

A powerful 7.8-magnitude earthquake struck off the southern Philippines on Monday, killing at least 32 people, injuring more than 200 and triggering tsunami waves along nearby coastlines, authorities said.

The offshore quake, the strongest to hit the country this year, struck at 7:37 a.m. near Mindanao Island. Buildings collapsed, landslides swept through mountain communities and transport infrastructure suffered extensive damage in several provinces.

The worst-hit area was Sarangani province, where a landslide buried homes in the town of Glan, killing 13 residents. Additional fatalities were reported in General Santos City, South Cotabato, Davao Occidental and Balut Island.

Emergency teams launched search-and-rescue operations after reports that people were trapped inside damaged structures. Authorities said thousands of residents were displaced as aftershocks continued to shake the region.

President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. ordered the suspension of classes and directed disaster-response agencies to mobilise resources immediately for affected communities.

The quake also generated tsunami waves of up to 1.4 metres along parts of the southern coast. Smaller waves were recorded in Indonesia, Palau and Japan before warnings were later lifted.

Disaster officials urged residents to stay away from damaged buildings due to the risk of further collapses from aftershocks.

"It's a major earthquake," said Teresito Bacolcol, director of the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology, warning residents to seek expert advice before re-entering damaged structures.

Earthquake at a Glance

- Magnitude: 7.8
- Time: 7:37 a.m. local time
- Epicentre: Off Mindanao Island
- Depth: 33 km
- Strongest quake in Philippines this year

Casualties & Damage

- Deaths: 32
- Injured: 200+
- Missing: 12 (reported)
- Tsunami height: Up to 1.4 metres
- Flights cancelled: 17

Worst-Hit Areas

- General Santos City
- Sarangani Province
- South Cotabato
- Davao Occidental
- Balut Island

Eight feared dead in fire mishap at Vizag Steel Plant

HYDERABAD

At least eight workers are feared dead after a major fire accident at the Visakhapatnam Steel Plant (VSP) in Andhra Pradesh's Anakapalle district on Monday evening.

The mishap reportedly occurred at the Steel Melt Shop (SMS) I unit when a leakage developed in a ladle carrying molten iron. The spill ignited a massive fire, creating panic among workers on duty.

Around 20 employees were present at the site when the incident took place. While several workers managed to escape with minor injuries, authorities fear that about eight workers may have lost their lives in the blaze.

Emergency teams rushed to the spot and launched rescue and relief operations.

Firefighters worked to contain the flames while officials assessed the extent of damage.

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu expressed shock over the tragedy and spoke with officials monitoring the situation.

He directed all concerned departments to coordinate rescue efforts and ensure immediate assistance to the affected workers and their families.

50% REBATE ON PENDING TRAFFIC E-CHALLAN FINES

JUDGE URGES PUBLIC TO AVAIL BENEFIT

MYSURU

Principal District and Sessions Judge Usha Rani announced that a 50 per cent concession has been granted on fines related to traffic e-challan cases registered by the Police Department before May 2026 across Karnataka, as well as cases registered by the Transport Department between 1991 and 2022.

Speaking to media representatives after a meeting of officials held at the Video Conference Hall of the New Court Complex here on Monday, she said the concession would apply to cases settled during the specified period. The public can pay the reduced fines between June 21 and July 10. In the Mysuru City Police jurisdiction, there are 10,418,480 pending cases with outstanding fines amounting to ₹4.58.04 crore.

Under the Mysuru District Police jurisdiction, 3,673,737 cases remain pending, with fines totaling ₹1.84.05 crore. Altogether, the district has 14,092,217 pending cases, with outstanding fines amounting to ₹6.42.09 crore.

Under the Regional Transport Department, 792 cases with pending fines of ₹24.12 lakh are under the East Division, while 864 cases with fines totaling ₹30.99 lakh are pending in the Hunsur Division. In total, 1,656 transport-related cases involving ₹55.11 lakh in fines remain unsettled.

Judge Usha Rani directed officials to formulate an awareness plan to inform the public about the concession and take necessary steps to collect fines from June 21 to July 10. Authorities concerned must open special booths at both the old and new court complexes for fine collection.

District Superintendent of Police Mallikarjuna Baladandi said that during a similar concession period in 2025, fines amounting to ₹1.43 crore and ₹43.80 lakh were collected. This year, the police department will create awareness through beat police personnel and social media platforms.

Mysuru City Deputy Commissioner of Police (Crime and Traffic) K.S.Sundar Raj said that arrangements would be made to collect fines at 18 police stations and five traffic police stations across the city. Additional booths and personnel would be deployed if necessary.

District Legal Services Authority Member Secretary Nagaraj Siddappa Ankanadoddi, Mysuru Bar Association President S. Lokesh, ACP (Traffic) Shivashankar, Additional Superintendent of Police Mallik, and other officials were present.

Special Lok Adalat in the Supreme Court

Judge Usha Rani also informed that the Supreme Court intends to conduct a Special Lok Adalat from August 21 to August 23. Video conferencing facilities will be provided to conduct pre-Lok Adalat discussions between parties and respondents. Litigants will be able to participate in the pre-Lok Adalat proceedings conducted by the Supreme Court either virtually or in person. A list of cases identified for settlement through this Special Lok Adalat will be published on the website of the Karnataka State Legal Services Authority. A Google Form has been made available for registration, which concerned advocates or litigants may fill out on or before July 31.

No hike in Chamundi Hill entry fee: Dr Roopa clarifies

MYSURU

The ticket price for special darshan at the Chamundeshwari Temple atop Chamundi Hill has not been increased. Distribution of ₹50 special darshan tickets had been temporarily suspended for the past two days due to a technical issue, clarified Dr. M.J. Roopa, Secretary of the Chamundeshwari Development Authority.

Reacting to reports in social media, she said that messages claiming an increase in the special entry ticket fee at Chamundi Hill were false and misleading. There was no revision in ticket prices has been made. Due to a technical malfunction, tickets with a face value of ₹50 could not be printed over the last two days, resulting in a temporary disruption in their distribution. The technical issue has now been resolved, and ticket distribution will resume as usual from tomorrow.

On December 3 of last year, the special darshan ticket fee was increased from ₹100 to ₹200, with two complimentary laddus being provided as prasadam with each ticket. To prevent unauthorized entry into the temple, a ₹1,000 special ticket category was introduced on January 1. Devotees purchasing this ticket receive four laddus, a picture of the deity, and kumkum prasadam. This arrangement was approved by the Deputy Commissioner and the Additional Chief Secretary. Apart from these previously announced changes, no recent increase in ticket prices has been made, she noted.

Reforms introduced

Dr. Roopa said that several reforms have been implemented since she assumed charge as Secretary of the Development Authority. According to her, some individuals have been unable to accept these changes and are therefore making baseless allegations. False messages are being spread on social media to create confusion among devotees and the general public.

City Para athlete Alok R. Jain Selected for Intl championship

MYSURU

It is often said that there are no limits to achievement, and equally true is the fact that disability is no barrier to success. Proving this through his inspiring journey, Mysuru's specially abled athlete Alok R. Jain has brought pride to the city with his accomplishments.

Alok, a resident of Siddarthanagar and a specially abled sportsperson, is now preparing to compete at the international level, as he has been selected as one of only three Indian para athletes chosen to participate in the 3rd International Para Heyball Championship organized by the Pool Association, to be held in the Netherlands. Recognizing his achievement, the KMPK Trust felicitated Alok and extended its best wishes for success in the tournament.

Expressing his happiness, he said that disability should never be viewed as a curse but rather as an opportunity to showcase one's talent. Confidence is essential and that merely having a goal is not enough; interest, consistent practice, and concentration are equally important to achieve success.

He noted that government support is crucial for enabling more specially abled athletes to participate in international sporting events and tournaments. Such encouragement, he said, would greatly boost their confidence and aspirations.

Vikram Iyengar, President of the KMPK Charitable Trust, said that athletes in many other countries receive greater support and encouragement. However, specially abled athletes from India are also demonstrating their talent on international platforms, just as sportspersons in events such as the IPL, women's cricket, and the Olympics do. Stronger government support would further motivate these athletes to excel.

Ajay Shastri, along with Sandesh, Amit, Chetan, Suhas, Ritesh, Yashwanth, Vishal, Arjun, Nishanth, and others, were present.

YATRI SUVIDHA DIWAS 2026

Mysuru Airport held aviation familiarisation visit for school kids

MYSURU

As part of the activities leading up to Yatri Suvidha Diwas 2026, to be observed on June 15, Mysuru Airport on Monday facilitated an educational aviation familiarisation visit for students from Manasarowar Pushkarini Vidyashrama, Mysuru and St. Maria De Mattias School, Mysuru.

The students arrived at Mysuru Airport at 10 am and were provided with an enriching opportunity to gain firsthand exposure to the aviation environment. During the visit, the students were taken on a guided tour of the airport's passenger terminal building, where they were familiarised with various passenger facilitation measures, airport processes, and the role of different stakeholders involved in airport operations.

The students also visited the Airport Fire Station, where officials explained the functions of Airport Rescue and Fire Fighting (ARFF) services, emergency response mechanisms, specialised firefighting equipment, and the critical role played by the fire service in ensuring aviation safety.

A key highlight of the programme was the visit to the Orient Flying School, located within the airport premises. The students interacted with aviation professionals and were introduced to the fundamentals of flight training, aircraft operations, and career opportunities in the aviation sector. The visit provided valuable insights into the journey of becoming a pilot and other aviation-related professions.

The initiative was organised with the objective of creating awareness among young students about the aviation industry and inspiring them to explore future careers in aviation. The programme also helped students understand the importance of airport infrastructure, safety systems, and passenger-centric services.

Nalvadis birth anniversary: Meritorious students feted

MYSURU

With the noble objective of recognising achievers and giving due honour to talent, Team Mysuru organised a talent felicitation programme here to coincide with the 142nd birth anniversary of Rajarshi Nalwadi Krishnaraja Wadiyar.

On this occasion, students who secured more than 85 per cent marks in the 2025–26 SSLC and PUC examinations were felicitated.

A total of 35 SSLC students and 17 PUC students were felicitated. Krishnaraja Constituency MLA Srivatsa, retired professor Nagaraj, Prakash, and former corporator Chaya Naveen presented mementoes in memory of Team Mysuru member Gokul Govardhan and honoured the students.

Team Mysuru convener Gokul Govardhan highlighted the organisation's environmental initiatives under the "Green Mysuru" campaign, through which the team plants, nurtures, and maintains saplings. The organisation has been fostering patriotism among the public through celebrations of national leaders' birth anniversaries, remembrance programmes for soldiers, and several socially useful activities. Students must repay their debt to society by contributing meaningful service to the community.

Chief guest Srivatsa recalled the remarkable contributions of Nalwadi Krishnaraja Wadiyar and said that his developmental works should always be remembered by every citizen. Wadiyar's people-centric initiatives continue to inspire political representatives and serve as an exemplary model of public service.

He also appreciated Team Mysuru for its unique efforts in recognising talent and for its selfless social service activities.

Another chief guest, Dr. R. Nagaraj, retired professor of the University of Mysore, said that talent exists in every individual and that identifying and encouraging it is important. He reminded students that the efforts of teachers and parents also play a significant role behind every achievement and should never be forgotten.

He further observed that knowledge is more important than marks and advised parents not to compare their children with others or humiliate them on that basis.

Dr. Nagaraj suggested that the organisation to conduct special coaching and mentoring programmes for academically weaker students in the months leading up to examinations. He also assured his support for such initiatives.

Among those present at the programme were Team Mysuru members Kiran Jairam Gowda, Anil Jain, Harish Babu, Murali, Shivaprasad, Abhinandan, Yatheesh, Trimurthy, Damodar, Manohar, Harish Shetty, Sundar Murthy, Harish Ittigegud, Shekhar, Ganesh Prasad, Hemanth, Prasanna Raj Guru, Raghavendra, Basavaraj Ballari, Tilak, Harish Gokulam, Sachin, Krishna, Manju Bank, Harish Farm, Jayanth, Vaishakh, Sahana, Sukrutha, Nandini, Bhandavya, Kumari Kalyani, and several others.

WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY CELEBRATED AT CSIR-CFTRI

MYSURU

CSIR-Central Food Technological Research Institute (CSIR-CFTRI), Mysuru, celebrated World Environment Day with great enthusiasm and commitment towards environmental conservation.

Trishikha Kumari Wadiyar, Chairperson, Bherunda Foundation and Chairperson, Cyberverse Foundation, The Palace, Mysuru, was the Chief Guest. The programme commenced with a tree plantation at Amrutha Vana in the CSIR-CFTRI campus, led by the Chief Guest.

Trishikha Kumari Wadiyar highlighted the significant contributions of the Wadiyar royal family towards making Mysuru one of the greenest cities in the country and elaborated on the various social and environmental initiatives undertaken by the Bherunda Foundation and Cyberverse Foundation for the welfare of society. The first phase of tree auditing in Mysuru has been successfully completed and that the subsequent phases involving tree auditing and marking will be carried out in the coming days, including at the CSIR-CFTRI campus.

Emphasizing the need for collective action, she called upon everyone to conserve nature and actively contribute towards protecting the environment for future generations.

Dr. Sridevi Annapurna Singh, Former Director, CSIR-CFTRI recalled her long association with the institute from her student days until her superannuation, and spoke fondly about the rich and diverse flora and fauna present on the campus.

She stressed that preserving Mother Nature is the responsibility of every individual, as nature in turn safeguards humanity. She also expressed concern about the increasing levels of pollutants entering various ecosystems, including the human body, and urged people to adopt responsible practices for both personal well-being and environmental protection.

Dr. Giridhar Parvatam, Director, CSIR-CFTRI, who presided, highlighted the vast diversity of tree species, plant varieties, and fauna found within the CSIR-CFTRI campus. He drew attention to several critical environmental challenges facing society today and discussed ways to address them effectively.

Quoting the Sanskrit proverb Vruksho Rakshati Rakshitah (Trees protect those who protect them), he emphasized the importance of conserving green cover. Continuing, he explained about various activities CFTRI has initiated and is currently pursuing towards a green campus. He also recalled the invaluable contributions of the Wadiyar dynasty towards the development of Mysuru and acknowledged their generous support to CSIR-CFTRI over the years.

On the occasion, certificates were distributed to the winners of the Poster Making Competition organized for students of the CFTRI School as part of the World Environment Day celebrations.

Mysuru Police crack 44 cases, recover property Worth ₹2.09 Crore

MYSURU

Mysuru City Police Commissioner Seema Latkar the staff of various police stations in Mysuru have detected 41 property theft cases, three cheating cases and recovered stolen property worth ₹2.09 crore.

Addressing the media here on Monday, she said police recovered 1 kg 578 grams and 743 milligrams of gold ornaments, 3 kg 578 grams of silver articles, 10 vehicles, cash amounting to ₹2,76,786 and other stolen property valued at ₹2,09,37,645.

She also highlighted the continued special drive against narcotics by Mysuru City Police, under which four accused involved in the illegal transportation of ganja were arrested and 280 kg of ganja worth ₹1.40 crore was seized. During the last three months, the city cops detected a total of 44 cases, including one dacoity conspiracy case, two extortion cases, 10 burglary cases, nine house burglary cases, four thefts committed by domestic workers, 10 vehicle thefts, five general thefts and three cheating cases. A total of 55 accused persons have been arrested in connection with these cases.

■ **NDPS Act Cases:** Strict measures against narcotics continue in Mysore city. On 08-06-26, Mysore City CCB Police conducted a special operation and raided the road in front of the Green County Layout Nursery Gate on the Malavalli-Mysore main road, in the Alanahalli Police Station area. They arrested the accused 1) Mohammed Zubair, 2) Mudasir Ahmed, 3) Abubakar Siddique, 4) Syed Mazhar, who were illegally transporting ganja and seized 280 kg of ganja worth Rs. 1.40,00,000/- and 1- Eicher truck and 1 car used for transporting ganja have been suspended.

Apart from the above case, in the last 3 months, a total of 12 NDPS Act cases have been registered, 28 accused have been arrested and 43 kg of ganja and 164 grams of synthetic drugs have been seized. In addition, 36 cases of consumption have been registered.

■ **C.E.I.R. Portal mobile detection:** In the last 3 months, a total of 234 mobile phones worth Rs. 26,08,000/- have been detected on the CEIR portal.

Major Case Detections

CCB Police: Arrested two accused and detected four cases, including three burglary cases and one house theft case. Gold ornaments weighing 173.260 grams worth ₹21 lakh were recovered. In addition, one cheating case was detected and four accused were arrested, leading to the recovery of ₹2.74 lakh in cash.

Mandi Police Station: Arrested two accused in a cheating case and recovered a 660-gram gold bar valued at ₹90 lakh.

Vijayanagar Police Station: Arrested two accused and detected two theft cases involving domestic workers. Gold ornaments weighing 170 grams and garments worth ₹23.50 lakh were recovered.

Saraswathipuram Police Station: Arrested two accused and detected four house burglary cases. Gold ornaments weighing 143 grams worth ₹18.40 lakh were recovered.

Lashkar Police Station: Arrested four accused and detected four cases, including three general thefts and one theft by a domestic worker. Gold ornaments weighing 202 grams and 196 grams of silver articles worth ₹11.45 lakh were recovered.

Nazarbad Police Station: Arrested two accused and detected two cases, including a temple burglary and a cheating case. Gold ornaments weighing 43 grams and 1.25 kg of silver articles worth ₹9.25 lakh were seized.

Intl Day of Yoga at Palace Grounds in Mysuru on June 21: ADC

MYSURU

The 12th International Day of Yoga will be celebrated at the Mysuru Palace premises on June 21 under the aegis of the district administration, said Additional Deputy Commissioner Aishwarya R.

Presiding over a preparatory meeting held today at the Deputy Commissioner's office here on Monday, she said people should not limit yoga practice to Yoga Day alone but should make it a part of their daily routine. Various yoga postures provide exercise to all muscles and nerves in the body and contribute to a healthy lifestyle. A series of yoga asanas will be demonstrated from 6 a.m. to 8 a.m. on June 21. Yoga institutions across the district must participate in large numbers and help make the programme a success. District AYUSH Officer Dr. Renuka Devi said that under the "Daily Yoga" initiative, an online link will be provided to the public from June 22 for one year, enabling people to practise yoga every day for 365 days.

Yoga Federation head Srihari said that plans are being made to establish Mysuru as a yoga hub by organising yoga demonstrations at 120 locations on June 21. The objective is to involve 1,20,000 participants with the support of 1,200 trainers, he added.

On the occasion, the Yoga Day poster was also released.

Assistant Commissioner of Police Raghavendra, Tourism Department Assistant Director Prabhu, and heads of various yoga organisations were present at the meeting.

One-Day conference on Yoga for memory enhancement held

MYSURU

A one-day scientific conference on "Yoga for Memory Enhancement: Bridging Traditional Wisdom and Modern Neuroscience" was hosted by Sarada Vilas College of Pharmacy in collaboration with the Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences in Mysuru on Monday.

The conference was inaugurated by Prof. Pradyumna Kumar Sethy, principal and professor of Physics, Regional Institute of Education (RIE), Mysuru, who delivered the keynote address, said that memory-related disorders, particularly Alzheimer's disease, are becoming increasingly prevalent across the world. The memory problems that may affect individuals from a young age can be mitigated through the practice of various yogasanas and healthy daily activities from the student stage itself.

Prof Sethy said that India's traditional medicinal systems and non-pharmacological therapies such as yoga, meditation, and regular physical activity can play a significant role in maintaining brain health and cognitive well-being. However, it is important that the dependency on social media and mobile phones are reduced as much as possible.

Encouraging meaningful interpersonal interactions and sharing life experiences with others can help keep the brain active and support memory retention.

Dinesh, Secretary of Sarada Vilas Educational Institutions. The conference was presided over by Dr. Hanumanthachar Joshi, Principal of Sarada Vilas College of Pharmacy. The resource persons for the conference included Sri Hari from GSS Foundation, Dr. Suresh of FAME Medical College, Mysuru, and Dr. Lakshminarayana Shanai, who shared their expertise on the subject.

AEROIGNITE 2026 SOARS HIGH AT JSS STU

National-Level Aeromodelling contest witnesses thrilling UAV Action

MYSURU

The skies over Mysuru came alive with innovation, engineering excellence and aviation excitement as JSS Science and Technology University (JSS STU) successfully hosted AeroIgnite 2026, a prestigious three-day National-Level Aeromodelling Competition. Organized by AeroJC, the student aeromodelling club of the Department of Mechanical Engineering, SJCE.

The event marked the first competition of its kind in the Mysuru region.

A total of 23 teams from leading engineering institutions across India showcased their talent through completely student-designed and built fixed-wing RC aircraft. The competition commenced on June 3 with registrations, technical scrutiny and participant briefings.

The formal inauguration on June 4 was graced by Amith Byrappa, Senior Manager – API Management and Data Governance, Collins Aerospace, Bengaluru, as Chief Guest. The programme was presided over by Dr. A.N. Santosh Kumar, Vice-Chancellor, JSS STU, in the presence of Dr. C. Nataraju, Principal (i/c) & Dean (E&T), SJCE, and Dr. G. Mallesh, Head of the Department of Mechanical Engineering. The occasion also witnessed the release of the 10th Anniversary Newsletter of AeroJC.

Precision Flying Challenge

The highlight of AeroIgnite 2026 was the flying competition held on June 5 at the KSCA Cricket Ground within the JSS STU campus. Teams undertook a demanding mission that required aircraft to accurately drop golf balls into a designated 5m × 5m target zone. The challenge reflected the growing importance of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) in defence, surveillance and strategic operations worldwide. All aircraft underwent rigorous technical inspections and safety evaluations. A certified pilot handled flight operations, while a dedicated Emergency Response Team ensured flawless safety management.

Champions of the Sky

After a comprehensive evaluation of aircraft design, innovation, technical documentation and flight performance, the winners emerged: Ist Place-Team Dhanush – Nitte Meenakshi Institute of Technology (₹15,000), IInd place- Team AeroMIT – Manipal Institute of Technology (₹10,000), IIIrd place- Team AeroVeloce – RV College of Engineering (₹5,000). Cash prizes worth ₹30,000, medals and certificates were awarded to participants.

Participants praised the event's professional execution, technical standards and safety protocols, comparing them with internationally recognized SAE Aero Design competitions.

The valedictory ceremony was presided over by Vice-Chancellor Dr. A.N. Santosh Kumar, who distributed awards along with senior faculty members. Guided by faculty coordinators Prof. Karthik M.S. and Prof. S.G. Channabasavanna, AeroIgnite 2026 successfully provided aspiring engineers a valuable platform to innovate, collaborate and explore real-world aerospace challenges, reinforcing JSS STU's commitment to experiential learning and technological excellence.

Power disruption in the city today

MYSURU

Due to first-quarter maintenance works at the 66/11 kV Bogadi Power Distribution Centre under the V.V. Mohalla Division, power supply will be interrupted on June 9 from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

The areas likely to be affected by the power outage include: Jayanagar, Bogadi 2nd Stage (North & South), Gangothri Campus, Gangothri Quarters, Dasanakoppalu, Marati Kyathanahalli, Roopa Nagar, Deepa Nagar, Bogadi Village, Preethi Layout, R.M.P. Layout, Vijayanagar 3rd Stage, Hinkal, Vijayanagar 4th Stage, Vijayashreepura, Sudha Layout, Railway Layout, SBM Layout, Vagdevi Nagar, CFTRI Layout, the University area, and surrounding localities, according to a press release issued by the Executive Engineer of CESC's V.V. Mohalla Division.

Need for Yoga sports training facilities in Mysuru stressed

MYSURU

With a growing number of talented yoga athletes emerging from Mysuru and Mysuru Rural districts and achieving success at state and national-level competitions, there is an urgent need to strengthen training facilities and professional guidance for aspiring yoga sportspersons

Addressing reporters here on Monday, international yoga teacher Ramesh Shetty and Suvarna Belaku Foundation Honorary President Manjunath noted that while yoga offers significant opportunities as a competitive sport, many promising students are unable to reach their full potential due to the lack of structured training systems and expert coaching. Mysuru, widely known as the "Yoga City," enjoys a rich yoga heritage that has earned recognition both nationally and internationally. However, greater priority must be given to yoga sports by the Department of Youth Empowerment and Sports to ensure continuous, scientific and technical training for athletes.

They urged the government to appoint National Institute of Sports (NIS)-qualified yoga coaches in sports hostels across the district. Such appointments would provide students with professional training, competitive exposure and scientific coaching methods while also creating opportunities for talented youth from rural areas.

They stressed that yoga should be promoted not only as a health and wellness activity but also as a competitive sport. Appropriate support and infrastructure would enable more Mysuru-based athletes to excel at national and international levels. The authorities must introduce yoga training programmes in district sports hostels and appoint qualified instructors to encourage the growth of yoga sports. Adequate guidance and infrastructure are essential to make Mysuru's reputation as the "Yoga City" truly meaningful.

MYSURU'S TRAFFIC FINE MOUNTAIN TOUCHES ₹6.42 CRORE!

1.4 Crore traffic violations still unpaid across city & district

MYSURU

Mysuru's traffic offenders seem to be giving the rulebook a long holiday. A staggering 1.40 crore traffic challan cases remain pending across Mysuru city and district, with unpaid fines soaring to an eye-popping ₹6.42.09 crore.

Mysuru City Tops the List

The city alone accounts for a massive 1,04,18,480 pending traffic cases, with motorists yet to pay fines worth ₹458.04 crore. Traffic authorities say the figures highlight the growing challenge of enforcing road discipline and recovering penalties from repeat violators.

District Not Far Behind

Across the rest of Mysuru district, 36,73,737 challan cases are still pending. The outstanding fine amount stands at ₹184.05 crore, reflecting widespread non-compliance with traffic regulations beyond city limits as well.

The numbers paint a worrying picture of traffic rule violations and poor fine recovery. With more than 1.40 crore unpaid challans piled up, authorities face the daunting task of tracing offenders and ensuring compliance. Road safety experts warn that unpaid fines are not just about lost revenue—they also signal a culture of ignoring traffic rules, which can ultimately impact road safety and public discipline.

As per Government Order, 50% concession (discount) has been granted on the amount payable in Traffic e-challan cases registered by the Police Department up to May 2026, and cases registered with the Transport Department during the period 1991 to 2022 that are still pending payment. This concession is applicable only to cases settled between 21.06.2026 and 10.07.2026. Therefore, all members of the public are requested to make use of this opportunity. For more information contact: Website: www.kslsa.kar.nic.in For free legal aid, please contact the National Helpline: 15100.

QUICK READ

Bellada distributes incentive pay to Vachana singers

CH NEWS, BENGALURU
Mahesh Bellada, honorary president of Vachana Jyoti Balaga, gave away an incentive cheque of Rs 2.5 lakh to vachana singers in Yeshwantpur. Singers Devendra Kumar Pattar, Ravindra Soragavi, Meenakshi Mati, TM Janaki, Saraswati Hegde, Siddaramaiah Kesapur, Amaresh Gawai, Irayya Chikkamatha, Chetana Mudhol, Prabha Inamdar, instrumentalists Gururaja Acharya, Punyash, Mahendra were also paid. Association president S Pinakapani, Anita Mahesh Bellad, vice-president Rudrappa Desai, general secretary Prabhu Isuvanahalli, chief executive Raja Guruprasad, general coordinator of children's vachana mela Ratna Desai, poetess KR Soumya, Ashaya Bilva, Manasa Meti and Vaishnavi Acharya were present.

Customs officials seize 10.20 kg ganja at KIA

CH NEWS, BENGALURU
Customs officials have seized 10.20 kg of ganja worth 3.57 crore that was being smuggled at the Devanahalli Kempegowda International Airport. The accused has been arrested under the NDPS Act in connection with the case. A passenger who arrived in Bengaluru from Bangkok was caught trying to smuggle marijuana. Authorities said hydroponic marijuana was found in the suspect's bag during a check-in baggage inspection.

Fire breaks out at car service centre in city

CH NEWS, BENGALURU
A massive fire broke out at a car service centre in Kasturi Nagar under Ramamurthy Nagar police station limits in Bengaluru on Monday morning. Five cars, including the Fortuner, Innova, i20 and Swift, were completely gutted in the accident and property worth lakhs of rupees was damaged. Fortunately, there were no casualties in the incident. The exact cause of the fire is yet to be ascertained. Ramamurthy Nagar police have registered a case.

Case against microlight pilot Audrey Maben dismissed

Stating that criminal prosecution is a weapon for personal hatred, the High Court quashed the case against country's first female microlight pilot, Audrey Deepika Maben, on charges of fraud.

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The High Court, holding that a criminal case filed out of personal and professional enmity is an abuse of legal process, has ordered the quashing of the case filed against the country's famous female pilot Audrey Deepika Maben on charges of fraud and forging signatures to renew her license.

However, the court said it would not interfere with the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA)'s independent investigation into the technical aspects of the license renewal.

The order was issued by a

single-judge bench headed by Justice M Nagaprasanna, which heard a petition filed by pilot Audrey Deepika Maben seeking quashing of the case against her.

As per the complainant's allegations, the incident took place in 2014. However, it came to light four years later, in 2018, and the bench said in its order that the complaint, filed after a delay, was merely for the purpose of revenge.

Also, the license was renewed in 2014, but the complaint was filed in 2017-18. The bench rejected the argument of M.C. Vinitha's lawyer, who alleged that the fake signature was noticed while cleaning the cupboard at home, and said that even though both of them work in the same field, they have been silent for 4 years, and that the complaint was filed to defraud Audrey when she was preparing for a global flight adventure.

Citing various orders of the Supreme Court, the bench said that cases of long delays without any valid reason should be quashed. The criminal justice system cannot be used as a platform for personal vendetta, it said in its order.

The criminal investigation cannot continue as the forensic laboratory report regarding the handwriting of the forged signature does not match the signature. According to the Indian Evidence Act, the expert report is only supplementary evidence. It is not a final verdict, the bench said.Meanwhile, the criminal case is being quashed in its entirety. However, this is a dispute related to the renewal of aviation licenses, and the complaint is based on the copy of signatures and technical documents.

'DGCA can continue probe on technical aspects of license renewal'
Since the civil aviation and licensing authority is under the control of the DGCA, no decision has been taken in the petitioner's case. Therefore, the bench said the independent investigation being conducted by the DGCA on the technical aspects of the license renewal can continue.

Techie dies of suspected gas geyser leak

Bengaluru: A 27-year-old woman who was on a weekend trip to Kodagu died due to a suspected gas geyser leak at a homestay in the district, police said on Monday.

The deceased, identified as Vinutha, was a native of Mysuru and worked at a private firm in Bengaluru, the police said.

The incident occurred on Sunday at a homestay in the Kalkanduru area, where she had been staying with her colleagues during a two-day trip to Kodagu, police added.

According to police, Vinutha had gone to take a shower and was later found unconscious inside the bathroom.

The matter came to light when her colleagues checked on her after noticing that she had been in the bathroom for an unusually long time.

She was rushed to a nearby hospital, where doctors declared her dead, a senior police officer said.

'Panchayat elections in K'taka by year-end'

Bengaluru: Karnataka Minister Eshwar Khandre on Monday said steps would be taken to conduct elections to all panchayats in the state by the end of this year.

Speaking to reporters after holding an introductory meeting with senior officials of the department in Bengaluru, he said the process of constituency delimitation and reservation would be completed within the next eight weeks. Thereafter, the State Election Commission would undertake the election process.

He also assured that steps would be taken to fill 4,000 of the 8,770 vacant posts in the Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department.

Father, daughter held for job fraud

CH NEWS,BENGALURU

CCB police have arrested a father and daughter on charges of defrauding unemployed people by promising them jobs in various departments of the central and state government.

The accused have been identified as MA Mansoor Ahmed and his daughter MM Shamshad Begum, an MBA graduate. The arrested persons are accused of defrauding the bank of over Rs 5.3 crore.

The accused, who had set up fake training centres in Mumbai, Bengaluru and Kolkata, were targeting unemployed people. They were promising them appointments in various departments including Railways, Income Tax, Health and Social Welfare. They were then deceiving them by giving fake appointment letters. They had also given 3-4 months' salary to some of the candidates to convince them. Police said that they had cheated them out of more than Rs 5.3 crore from more than 40 job seekers from North Karnataka.Sangamesh Rachaiah Vastrad, who was cheated by the accused, had filed a complaint with the CCB last November. The police, who conducted the investigation, have arrested both of them and taken them into custody for further questioning. The police have informed that the work of identifying other accused who may have been involved in the fraud and the money that was cheated is ongoing.

GANDHIJI ASSASSINATION CASE

Plea seeking formation of parliamentary panel dismissed, petitioner fined Rs 10K

CH NEWS,BENGALURU

The High Court has dismissed a petition seeking the formation of a joint parliamentary committee to investigate why the central government did not form a judicial inquiry commission for nearly 17 years until 1965 in connection with the assassination of the Father of the Nation Mahatma Gandhi, and has ordered a fine of Rs 10,000 to the petitioner.

The order was issued by a bench comprising Chief Justice and Justice KS Hemalekha, who heard a public interest litigation filed by KN Manjunath, a representative of Jagrita Karnataka and Jagrita Bharat Sangathan, in this regard.

The bench, which examined the petition during the hearing, said that the same petition had been filed earlier also. Now you have filed the petition again with the same pleas. There is no public interest in the petition. Your action is a waste of the valuable time of the judicial system.

The petitioner repeatedly requested that the case involve national interest. Therefore, our argument should be heard. The bench rejected the plea, dismissed the petition, imposed a fine and ordered that the fine amount be submitted to the State Legal Services Authority within the next two weeks.

A joint parliamentary committee should be formed to find out the reason why a judicial inquiry commission was not formed for 17 years, from 1947 to 1965, regarding the assassination of Gandhiji. It has also been requested that an investigation be conducted into the factors that led to the initiation of a judicial inquiry after 17 years, i.e. in 1965.

The petition also demands that the background of Gandhiji's reference to armed conflict as an option to prevent the partition of India in a letter to the British Viceroy on May 8, 1947, be examined.

Meanwhile, a special search operation should be conducted to recover 51 boxes of documents, which are said to contain the draft documents of the second volume of Gandhiji's autobiography, which were allegedly moved from the Nehru Memorial Museum in 2008. The letter allegedly written by Gandhiji to the United Nations on December 30, 1947 regarding the Kashmir issue is missing and another letter dated January 1, 1948 has been used in its place. The petition has requested that necessary steps be taken to conduct an international investigation into this matter.

The petitioner had filed an interim petition seeking directions to respond to the petitions filed by the concerned authorities on November 13, 2025 and March 13 and March 25, 2026, within two weeks.

Bomb blast case accused creates ruckus at Central jail

CH NEWS,BENGALURU

A case has come to light of late in which suspected terrorists, who were arrested in bomb blast cases and are lodged in Parappana Agrahara Central Jail, engaged in a brawl with prison staff, protested and shouted pro-religious slogans, and committed hooliganism.

The incident took place four or five days ago in the prison hospital. Three prisoners involved in the explosion case had come to the prison hospital for treatment. At that time, the prison warden questioned them on charges of violating the rules. Then the angry prisoners argued with the warden. It is learnt that they also attempted to assault him. Four or five days ago, two prisoners in the bomb blast case had come to the prison hospital for treatment. Later, when checked, it was found that the prisoners had tried to get admitted to the hospital under the names of other prisoners. When the prison warden became suspicious about this, he checked the documents and found their real identity.

When the warden asked why they had come in the names of other prisoners, the inmates got angry and started a verbal altercation with the warden. Upon learning of this, more than 50 prisoners from the same community gathered at one place and shouted slogans against the warden. They also protested loudly by shouting slogans in favor of a religion. They also tried to attack the prison warden who was on duty. Due to this, a tense atmosphere was created in the prison premises for some time, sources said.

Upon learning about the incident, senior prison officials informed the Parappana Agrahara police station and called them to the scene, successfully bringing the situation under control. Officials said that no complaint has been filed regarding the incident so far.

AICC functionary Suraj Hegde dies of heart attack

BENGALURU

Suraj Hegde, who was AICC Secretary and Vice-Chairman of the State Guarantee Schemes Implementation Committee, breathed his last at the city's MS Ramaiah Hospital on Sunday night due to a massive heart attack.

Chief Minister DK Shivakumar and other dignitaries have expressed deep condolences on his demise. "I am deeply saddened to hear the news of the demise of Suraj Hegde. I cannot believe that he has left us at such a young age. Suraj was actively involved in the party organization as AICC Secretary, in-charge of Tamil Nadu and Puducherry. His demise is an irreparable loss to the Congress party."

Suraj, like his grandfather Devaraja Urs, worked for the backward classes, workers' rights, and social justice. He entered politics through the party organization as the in-charge of the National Youth Congress.

Kuvempu's foresight was eco-focused: Vanamala

CH NEWS,BENGALURU

The 'Forest Poet' Kuvempu symposium organised by the Bangalore International Centre as part of World Environment Day was thus memorable for Kuvempu readers. The reading of translated excerpts of his poems and novels added to the charm of the symposium.

Vanamala Vishwanath, who has translated Kuvempu's works 'Kanur Heggadathi' and 'Malayallo Madumagalu' into English, said, the holistic vision advocated by Kuvempu is not just human-centric. It is environment-centric. Even after that, we cannot forget the proposition that no one is important here, no one is unimportant.

After reading Kuvempu's poems, he surprised everyone by reciting the lines 'I am the flute of the forest, I am the poet of the forest, and also the less well-known lines Hasuratthal, hasuritthal, hasiretthal kadalinali, hasurgatto kaviatmam, hasiru nettar odalinali'.

Speaking later, social scientist Sundar Sarukkai compared the way Kuvempu and his son Poornachandra Tejaswi describe nature in their novels.

Recalling her days working in the mountains, Development Commissioner Uma Mahadevan said, special study is needed to understand the truth about nature that creative works like 'Madumala Madumagal' reveal.

ALL WEALTH IS SECONDARY TO ACHIEVEMENTS: MIN

CH NEWS,BENGALURU

It is true that money, property, and wealth bring happiness, but all these riches are secondary to achievements, said Bengaluru Development Minister Krishna Byre Gowda.

He was speaking at a felicitation program organized in collaboration with various organizations in Sahakari Nagar to honour Mountaineering Association members Santosh Devarajappa and Dr Chinmayi J Trishulamurthy, who climbed Mount Everest, the world's highest peak.

There is life beyond the acquisition of wealth. One should live life to the fullest through achievements and inspire others. There is no limit to the joy that such a life can bring, he said.

Devarajappa, President of Sahakari Nagar Welfare Association, presided over the function. Tulsi Maddineni, Secretary, Welfare Department of Backward Classes, Karnataka Mountaineering Association President S.K. Mehta, President of Cauvery Group of Educational Institutions BM Devarajappa, Congress leader NN Srinivasaiah, JDS leader Nagaraj were present.

PROTECT ENVIRONMENT

B'luru shows up on Environment Day to preserve green cover

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

World Environment Day was celebrated by the Sarvodaya Yoga Foundation and Kannada Sahitya Parishad in Sunavara village of the taluk. Saplings were planted during the program to create environmental awareness.

Forest Department Patrol Forester TY Janagari said, humans are destroying the environment for their own selfish purposes. The environment is becoming polluted due to the effects of urbanization and

globalization. Everyone should make it a habit to live with trees in their lives. Instead of giving gifts at events, they should contribute to maintaining the balance of the environment by giving plants. It is everyone's responsibility to protect wildlife.

Speaking on the occasion, Sivashankar Reddy of Sarvodaya Yoga Foundation said, environmental awareness should not be limited to the month of June but should become a part of life. The quality of loving and worshipping the environment should be incorporated into daily life. There is no use in symbolically celebrating plants on Environment Day. It is the responsibility of the planters to make the seedlings grow into trees. Humans should be indebted to the environment that provides them with air, light and rain.

Shyam of Sarvodaya Yoga Foundation said, a human being uses 7 kg of oxygen per day. During the Covid period, we used to pay for oxygen. Therefore, we should plant and nourish plants to get good and free oxygen.

Foundation's Venkataswamy Reddy,Mohan Reddy, Manjula, Kannada Sahitya Parishad President Adoor Prakash, Sub-Zone Forest Officer Annigeri, leaders Chilipili Santosh, Narayanareddy, Byregowda, Gangappa, Munirajappa, Ichchangur Shivanna, Veena, Kavita, Vaishali, Sanchana Prakash, Sinchana, Palguni, Afsar Alikhan were present.

Namma Metro to connect 6 new stations from Aug 15

BENGALURU

BMRCL is expected to open 6 stations from August 15. This 7.5 km long line has completed successful trials and its operation will make the Bengaluru Metro network the second largest in the country.

BMRCL has given good news to the commuters of Bengaluru city. The metro train is likely to run between six new stations from August 15.

A team of skilled experts and officials is conducting inspections before opening the Pink Line of our Metro to traffic. The Pink Line has received the green signal in various tests conducted, including quality. The oscillation test of the Pink Line of our Metro has been successful.

The 7.5 km long route from Kalena Agrahara to Tavarekere is expected to be open to the public by August 15 this year. It is said that trains have been approved to run at a speed of 90 km per hour.

QUICK READ

Chitradurga records light rainfall across district

Chitradurga

Chitradurga district recorded an average rainfall of 6.1 mm on Sunday night, according to official reports. Challakere received 8.4 mm, Chitradurga taluk 4.5 mm, Hiriyur 4.9 mm, Holalkere 5.2 mm, Hosadurga 8.9 mm, and Molakalmuru 1.2 mm. Hobli wise rainfall varied across regions with moderate showers in several areas. Authorities reported that ten houses were partially damaged across the district due to continuous rain, including three in Challakere, five in Hiriyur, one in Hosadurga, and one in Molakalmuru taluks. Officials said assessment work is underway to review losses and provide necessary assistance to affected families.

Adarsh Vidyalaya opens applications for entrance exam

Chitradurga

The Karnataka Comprehensive Education and Karnataka School Quality Assessment and Accreditation Council has allowed eligible students to apply directly to head teachers for admission to vacant 7th, 8th and 9th classes in Adarsh Vidyalaya of Challakere and Molakalmuru taluks for academic year 2026-27 from June 10 to 17. Entrance examination will be conducted on June 22 from 10.30 am to 1 pm at centres in Challakere and Molakalmuru taluks. Students studying in government, aided and unaided schools can apply. Eligible residents from other taluks, districts and states may also apply.

Yatnal criticises government over Bidadi township

Basanagouda Patil Yatnal accused government of acquiring fertile farmland for townships while ignoring farmers near Bidadi

RAMANAGARA

Vijayapura MLA Basavanagouda Patil Yatnal visited the Bidadi township protest site in Ramanagara and extended his support to farmers opposing land acquisition for the project.

He said the issue will be raised in the upcoming legislative session and warned that if the Chief Minister D K Shivakumar does not give a proper reply, an indefinite sit in protest will be launched by farmers and supporters.

Yatnal accused the government of taking away fertile farmland for township development and said farmers who have been cultivating coconut mango and silk crops are being ignored by authorities planning urban expansion near Bidadi.

He claimed that the project could lead to misuse of land worth thousands of crores and demanded transparency while challenging the Chief Minister to visit the site and prove that any barren land exists in the area.

He also criticised restrictions imposed near the protest area and said farmers should be allowed to express their concerns freely while urging unity among villagers against the township plan.

He said he is not involved in any political drama and insisted that he is only fighting for farmers who have been protesting for more than four hundred days demanding fair compensation and protection of their land rights in the region.

Yatnal also made strong remarks against the township plan saying political leaders are misusing power and warned that public anger is increasing, adding that continued neglect of farmers issues could lead to serious consequences in the future.

The protest witnessed participation from several farmer leaders and villagers who have been opposing the Bidadi township project for a long time and they demanded that the government withdraw the acquisition plan immediately to protect agricultural land and livelihoods of rural communities.

Local farmer representatives said they will continue their protest until the government cancels the township project and ensures justice for landowners while urging political leaders to hold meaningful discussions and avoid confrontation that could disturb peace in the region and called for peaceful resolution through democratic process while requesting immediate withdrawal of the acquisition notification and fair compensation for affected families in the Bidadi region.

Kolar administration prepares for monsoon disaster response

The district targets sowing across 72,000–76,000 hectares with certified subsidised seeds available, while drinking water shortages in 13 villages are being addressed

KOLAR

The Kolar district administration is fully prepared to handle the southwest monsoon and possible natural disasters, Deputy Commissioner Dr. M R Ravi said during a review meeting on Monday. He warned officials that any negligence in disaster management and public response will lead to strict action and personal accountability.

The district recorded a seven per cent rainfall deficit in pre monsoon season but weather forecasts show above normal rainfall during the southwest monsoon, so departments have been told to prepare early and manage rainwater for agriculture use. Officials reported that mango crops over 1618 hectares were damaged and 89 per cent compensation data entry is complete, while remaining work in Srinivaspur, Malur and KGF taluks must be finished within two days.

The Horticulture Department has been asked to study falling mango quality export issues and market rejection by forming an expert committee as directed in a recent DISHA meeting.

The district has set a sowing target of 72000 to 76000 hectares and 6474 quintals of certified seeds are available, with farmers encouraged to use subsidised seeds and practice intercropping with ragi and groundnut.

Drinking water shortage is reported in 13 villages and tanker supply is ongoing while borewell drilling and pipeline works are being expedited after approvals.

Electricity repairs are also underway, with 48 of 110 damaged poles already fixed and remaining works expected to finish within two to three days. Health officials said 97 per cent FMD vaccination is complete, no LSD cases are reported, and fodder stocks are sufficient for 16 weeks.

The Health Department has been directed to intensify surveillance for dengue and malaria during monsoon season across the district. Ravi warned that no department can cite staff shortage or coordination issues as excuse and said strict action will follow any failure.

The meeting was attended by senior district officials from multiple departments including revenue, forest, health and panchayat bodies. He also directed solid waste management teams to fix improper garbage disposal issues and ensure cleaner surroundings in all towns and villages to prevent health risks during the rainy season across the district.

Magistrate calls for a tobacco-free Chitradurga

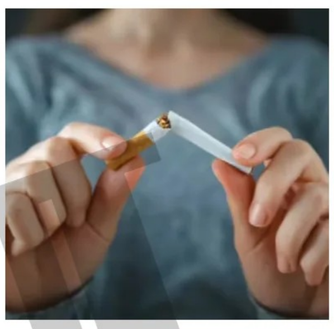
CHITRADURGA

Additional District Magistrate B T Kumaraswamy said every citizen should work together to make Chitradurga district tobacco free and protect young people from nicotine addiction. Speaking on World No Tobacco Day he explained health risks of tobacco use and urged people to quit smoking and build a healthy environment in the district.

Referring to WHO data he said nearly eight million people die worldwide every year due to tobacco and more than thirteen lakh people in India are affected annually with rising concern among youth. Based on Global Adult Tobacco Survey findings he noted that Karnataka has high tobacco use among people above fifteen years in both rural and urban areas which is worrying.

Officials explained that quitting tobacco brings quick health benefits including normal heart rate within twenty minutes improved lung function within weeks and reduced risk of stroke and heart disease over time. ADM Kumaraswamy appealed to citizens to support the district administration in creating a tobacco free Chitradurga and building a healthier society for future generations.

During the event he emphasized community participation awareness programs and strict enforcement of tobacco control laws in schools colleges and public places while encouraging youth volunteers health workers and local organizations to join hands with the district administration for long term success in reducing tobacco consumption and improving public health outcomes across Chitradurga district in Karnataka state and



he also said that continuous education campaigns will help create a tobacco free culture and support healthier future for all citizens in rural and urban communities across the district.

Girls Hostel with modern facilities inaugurated in Mandya

MANDYA

The newly constructed Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Post-Matric Girls Hostel in Shankarnagar, Mandya town was inaugurated on June 8. The building has been built at a cost of Rs 6.5 crore, said MLA P. Ravikumar while speaking at the event. He said the district has received three student hostels under his efforts and construction work is progressing fast. He added that education is the key for students to achieve success in life.

District Collector Dr. Kumar said that the newly constructed Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Post-Matric Girls Hostel in Shankarnagar was built with a cost of about 6.5 crore and has capacity to accommodate 100 students.

He said the hostel has basic facilities and is designed in a good manner for student living. He urged students to use the facility well and focus on education for better future.

Zilla Panchayat Chief Executive Officer K. R. Nandini, Small Industries Development Corporation Vice President Vijaya Lakshmi Raghunandan, Mooda President B. P. Prakash, Lawyers Association President T. S. Satyanand, and Social Welfare Department Deputy Director Srinivas attended the program. They said students should use the hostel facilities properly and aim for higher education and become responsible citizens of society. The leaders also said the hostel will support girls from rural areas by providing safe accommodation and better learning environment in Mandya district. This initiative aims to empower students through education and hostel support system.

MANDYA OFFICIALS ORDERED TO PROTECT LAKES STRICTLY

MANDYA

Officials in Mandya have been directed to protect all lakes under their jurisdiction and take strict action against encroachments. District Collector Dr Kumar said that departments such as Panchayat Raj Engineering, HLBC, Cauvery Irrigation Corporation Limited and Minor Irrigation must regularly inspect water bodies. He asked them to identify all encroached lakes and start a monthly drive to clear at least five lakes. He said protecting lakes is essential for water security and environmental balance in the district.

Officials were also instructed to ensure water quality testing of lakes with standing water and maintain regular conservation measures. Any public complaints regarding encroachment must be investigated on priority and immediate action should be taken. Dr Kumar stressed that protecting canals and royal waterways under various departments is equally important and negligence will not be tolerated. He added that coordination between departments is necessary to safeguard irrigation systems and maintain natural resources for future use.

Officials present at the meeting included senior civil judge Anand M from the District Legal Services Authority, Deputy Divisional Officer Shivamurthy and representatives from various departments.

They reviewed the progress of lake protection measures and discussed further steps for enforcement. Authorities emphasized collective responsibility in preventing encroachment and ensuring sustainable water management across Mandya district. They also urged strict monitoring and timely reporting to ensure protection of all water bodies in the region and surrounding areas.

Cycling rally promotes green future and fitness

MANGALURU

Mera Yuva Bharat, Dakshina Kannada, under the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Government of India, organized a grand cycle rally as part of World Bicycle Day 2026 with the theme "Cycling for a Green Future." The event aimed to encourage healthy living, environmental protection, physical fitness and youth empowerment among people of all age groups.

The programme was conducted in collaboration with the Department of Youth Empowerment and Sports, Dakshina Kannada, NSS Mangalore University, Freezing Sun, Mangalore Cycling Club, Surathkal Beach Runners and VR Cycling Club. Organizers said the initiative was designed to spread awareness about adopting eco friendly habits and maintaining an active lifestyle.

The rally began from Mangala Stadium in Mangaluru. Assistant Director of the Department of Youth Empowerment and Sports, Pradeep D'Souza, inaugurated the event and highlighted the importance of cycling in improving health and reducing environmental pollution. He said cycling is a simple and effective way to stay fit while contributing to a cleaner environment.

Presiding over the event, Mera Yuva Bharat Deputy Director Ullas K T K praised the enthusiasm shown by participants and appreciated the support of various organizations. He said cycling helps build a healthy society and contributes to nation building. He also encouraged young people to actively participate in activities that promote fitness and community welfare.

Several dignitaries, social leaders, cycling enthusiasts and representatives from different organizations attended the programme.

Healthy mind builds path to success: Dr. Mahesh

CHIKKABALLAPUR

Mental health shapes how people think, feel and behave in daily life. Stress, anxiety and depression can reduce quality of life. Good sleep, balanced diet, exercise and family support help maintain mental wellbeing. People should not hide mental health problems and must seek expert help when needed. Mental health is the foundation of a happy and successful life.

Everyone should follow healthy habits like exercise, yoga, meditation and good nutrition.

Regular walking and physical activity reduce stress and improve mood. People should spend time with family and friends to avoid loneliness. Positive thinking helps build confidence and supports emotional strength in life. Tele Manas helpline 14416 is available 24/7 for mental health support. District Health and Family Welfare Officer Dr. Mahesh Kumar said people should seek help without hesitation. Maintaining mental health is essential for a peaceful and successful life. Awareness and timely support can prevent serious mental health issues. Authorities encourage everyone to talk openly and seek help when required.

The district health department stressed importance of mental wellbeing among citizens. They said early identification of stress and anxiety helps in better treatment outcomes. Families should support members and create a positive environment at home. Seeking help is a sign of strength not weakness and improves overall wellbeing in society.

MALARIA-FREE-COMMUNITY

Anti-Malaria Month observed at Pandarahalli PHC

PANDARAHALLI

National Anti Malaria Month was observed at Pandarahalli Primary Health Centre in Chitradurga taluk where health officials and students took part in awareness activities.

Taluk Health Officer Dr B V Girish said female Anopheles mosquitoes bite during night and spread malaria so people must stay careful and avoid mosquito breeding places.

He told students from Raghavendra Nasir School Venkateshwara College and Amrutha Ayurvedic College that stagnant water in ponds wells and cattle footprints help mosquito breeding and malaria causes fever chills headache nausea and needs quick treatment in government hospitals for safety.

B Moogappa said National Anti Malaria Month is observed every June to spread awareness about malaria and encourage public participation in eliminating mosquito borne diseases through community action and education programs while students should promote correct health information and remove myths.

Administrative Medical Officer Dr Akshata said people must keep surroundings clean and can use neem smoke in evenings and biological controls like guppy and gambusia fish in stagnant water and must always use mosquito nets while sleeping for protection.

Raghavendra Nasir College Principal Prema teachers Parveen Puneeth Bhumika Tejaswini and senior health inspectors R Krishnappa Suresh Senior Primary Health Center Officer Mamatha Pharmacy Officer Vinay ASHA workers Nasir students and members of the public attended the program and participated in the awareness activities held at Pandarahalli Primary Health Center. Officials highlighted the importance of regular awareness drives and cooperation between schools colleges and health departments to control malaria spread in rural areas and ensure early reporting of fever cases for timely treatment and prevention of complications in the community.

Health staff also advised residents to remove stagnant water around houses clean surroundings regularly use mosquito nets and support government programs for eliminating mosquito breeding sites to reduce malaria cases in the district and improve public health outcomes through sustained community participation and awareness efforts. Organizers said such programs help students learn public health practices and motivate citizens to adopt safe habits and support malaria prevention activities in their daily life for a healthier society in the long run across rural communities of state.

QUICK READ

Drivers union welcomes new state Health Minister

Mangaluru

A leadership group representing the state government drivers' union visited Health Minister U.T. Khader at his residence. The delegation, led by District President Padmanabha Jogi, arrived to congratulate the prominent politician on taking charge of his crucial new government role. The union members presented him with a ceremonial greeting to honor his fresh cabinet appointment. During the pleasant meeting, the workers extended their warmest wishes for his leadership journey. They promised that the local drivers' community will offer complete cooperation to ensure smooth state administrative operations.

Gadag Employment Office announces direct interview drive

Gadag

District Employment Exchange Office will conduct a direct interview on June 11 at 10 am at Sai Baba Temple, Hindugade, KHB Colony in Gadag. Independent Micropin will participate in the recruitment. Candidates must have SSLC, PUC, ITI or any degree and be aged 18 to 30 years. Vacancies are available in Shirahatti, Mundargi, Gadag, Annigeri, Ron and Gajendragad. Applicants must bring Aadhaar, resume copies and mark sheets. Driving licence and two wheeler are required. Registration is mandatory and Yuvanidhi beneficiaries must attend. For details call 8951460061 or 6363330688.

Kaup MLA opens new pre-school classes

Hiriyadka

Kaup MLA Gurme Suresh Shetty inaugurated the new LKG and UKG classes at Shirur Kallal Government Higher Primary School. The launch event was celebrated by a gathered group of proud local leaders, including School Committee Chairman Ravi Nayak, former students, and community elders. School Headmaster Harish warmly welcomed the guests as they unveiled the fresh classrooms. This new educational project aims to provide high-quality, early childhood learning opportunities for young village children, giving them a bright, helpful start to their academic journey right within their local neighborhood.

Accounting group hosts financial safety seminar

Udupi

The Udupi branch of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India hosted a vital financial workshop. The special training session focused closely on the audit processes and tax laws affecting local cooperative societies. Expert speaker B.V. Ravindranath Sagar explained recent legal changes that change how financial audits are reported. Another expert, Anil Bharwaj, shared crucial updates regarding income tax and GST rules. Branch President M. Raghavendra Mogeraya welcomed the accountants, while local leaders joined to support the event, helping area finance professionals stay compliant.

Bommai urges priority loans for development growth

Agriculture and MSME loans achieved over 100 percent target, with crop loans fully met and strong non-priority loan growth

HAVERI

MP Basavaraj Bommai said that priority sector loans should be given in large numbers to poor women and common people in Haveri district and banks must open more rural branches and support self help groups for economic growth.

He was speaking at a district level progress review meeting held at Zilla Panchayat hall where he noted that the District Central Cooperative Bank has exceeded its lending target by March 2026 showing strong performance across sectors.

The bank had a target of nine thousand eight hundred nine crore rupees and achieved over ten thousand four hundred ninety three crore rupees by March 2026 which is one hundred seven percent performance while agriculture and MSME lending also crossed targets successfully.

In agriculture sector the bank achieved more than hundred percent target and crop loans reached full achievement while MSME sector recorded more than hundred percent performance and non priority loans also showed high growth compared to targets.

He also said that loans were given to weaker sections minorities and women in large amounts and government insurance schemes like Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana and Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana have shown good progress in the district.

Under these schemes insurance compensation has been provided to thousands of families and Jan Dhan Yojana account opening is strong in the district with more beneficiaries receiving RuPay debit cards for financial inclusion and banking access improvement.

He instructed banks to expand credit under Mudra Yojana Vishwakarma Yojana and Svanidhi Yojana and distributed credit cards to beneficiaries while praising officials for progress under crop insurance schemes in the district.

The meeting was attended by senior district officials including Deputy Commissioner CEO of Zilla Panchayat bank managers and other departmental officers who reviewed development programs and credit distribution progress across Haveri district.

Bommai emphasized the importance of supporting farmers self help groups women entrepreneurs and rural development through timely credit delivery and asked banks to ensure transparency efficiency and quick service so that government schemes reach all eligible beneficiaries without delay across the district for inclusive growth and financial stability in rural areas of Haveri district.

Deliver govt schemes to beneficiaries: Union Joint Secretary

Ghosh said Raichur, Karnataka's aspirational district, is improving as NITI Aayog tracks 112 districts and 500 blocks; officers urged proactive execution schemes, pensions, database linking

RAICHUR

The foundational objective of the Aspirational District Scheme is to eliminate regional imbalances by prioritizing sustainable development across India's backward regions, stated Ujwal Kumar Ghosh, Joint Secretary of the Union Commerce Department. Presiding over a comprehensive progress review meeting of the Aspirational District Programmes at the new District Commissioner's Office auditorium, Ghosh directed departmental heads to take immediate, definitive steps to deliver welfare initiatives to eligible local beneficiaries.

Ghosh emphasized that Raichur, identified as Karnataka's sole aspirational district is steadily achieving its targets through targeted developmental interventions. He reminded the administrative body that NITI Aayog monitors 112 districts and 500 blocks nationwide that lag in crucial sectors such as agriculture, education, healthcare, infrastructure, and skill development. "Every officer must remain highly proactive. We must ensure proper execution of loan facilities, social security pensions, and achieve 100% database linking across the district to streamline tracking," the Joint Secretary instructed.

Providing a localized progress brief, Deputy Commissioner Poovita S. highlighted that Raichur has secured a commendable position on the national performance index across forty-nine distinct developmental metrics since the scheme's 2018 inception. Adding to the medical indicators, Zilla Panchayat CEO Ishwar Kumar Kandu detailed that under the 'Nutrition Raichur' initiative, 250 vulnerable villages are being targeted through data-driven health interventions under the Integrated Nutrition and Health Initiative and the Samratna Abhiyan to actively track maternal immunization, institutional deliveries, and adolescent health.

The review meeting mapped out massive multi-sectoral updates for the district, which houses a population of over 19.2 lakh across eight taluks:

• **Education**: Mallikarjuna, Deputy Director of Public Education, reported that under NITI Aayog's supervision, Raichur climbed to the 21st position statewide in Class 10 results. Strategic door-to-door surveys successfully re-enrolled dropouts, and dedicated libraries were established in 50 local schools.

• **Agriculture & Water Resources**: Joint Director of Agriculture Prakash Chauhan stated that 17,138 soil health cards have been distributed up to March 2026. Under convergence models, 10,794 water bodies were revived via NREGA, and an additional 24 water bodies were fully restored directly through NITI Aayog funds. Furthermore, six agricultural markets have successfully transitioned to electronic trading platforms alongside widespread micro-irrigation campaigns.

• **Veterinary Services**: The district successfully achieved a 100% vaccination rate for livestock to insulate the rural agrarian economy from disease outbreaks.

Senior officials, including Municipal Commissioner Zubin Mohopatra, Assistant Commissioner Dr. Hampanna Sajjan, and District Health Officer Dr. Surendra Babu, attended the high-level review, collective in their commitment to utilize development funds transparently and maintain Raichur's upward growth trajectory.

Minister Khader announced emergency nurse recruitment for Wenlock and Lady Goschen hospitals and ordered fogging drives against dengue

Critical staff shortages cripple district government hospitals

MANGALURU

Extreme shortages of vital healthcare personnel, including pharmacists, lab technicians, and staff nurses, are severely disrupting patient care across primary health centers (PHCs) and taluk hospitals in Dakshina Kannada. Aggrieved medical officers highlighted these systemic vulnerabilities during a high-profile health department review meeting chaired by Health and Family Welfare Minister U.T. Khader Farid at Praja Soudha in Padil.

Official data presented by District Health Officer Dr. Thimmaiah painted a grim picture of the district's medical infrastructure. Out of eighty-seven sanctioned pharmacist posts, a mere thirty-one are on active duty, with twenty-six filled through external contracts and the remainder completely vacant. Similarly, twenty-one out of eighty-one sanctioned lab technician positions remain unfulfilled. Doctors from rural pockets like Sullia Bellare and Belthangady Padangady revealed they are forced to shoulder massive workloads without a single permanent staff nurse or data entry operator. Furthermore, an acute deficit of ASHA workers failing the mandatory ratio of one worker per one thousand citizens has heavily crippled grassroots healthcare monitoring.

To combat the escalating crisis as the seasonal monsoon triggers fears of dengue and malaria outbreaks, Minister Khader announced the immediate direct recruitment of emergency staff nurses for Wenlock and Lady Goschen hospitals with a fixed salary of ₹17,000. He also directed planning officers to launch aggressive anti-larval fogging drives.

Addressing long-term solutions, senior officials suggested reviving the policy of regularizing contract doctors who complete three years of continuous service and offering postgraduate allowances to restore job security. Minister Khader concluded by ordering all hospitals to visibly install 'Health Friend' boards to guarantee seamless, free Ayushman Karnataka treatments for BPL cardholders, promising phased, step-by-step resolutions through upcoming taluk-level reviews.

Demand mounted for cabinet berth to MLA Tanvir Sait

RAICHUR

Adil Sheikh, president of the Tanvir Sait Fan Club, has strongly appealed to the state leadership to accord a suitable ministerial berth to the six-time Congress MLA in the Karnataka government's cabinet. Addressing a press conference at the local Patrika Bhavan, Adil Sheikh described Sait as a visionary leader, an honest public servant, and a symbol of communal harmony. He highlighted that the legislator possesses a deep understanding of local governance and regional issues, having previously served efficiently as the Raichur district incharge minister.

The fans' association pointed out that throughout his lengthy public life, Sait has treated all sections of society with equal respect and dignity, responding to the grievances of common citizens without any discrimination. "He has been consistently elected to the Karnataka Legislative Assembly for six consecutive terms and has successfully handled critical portfolios as a cabinet minister twice.

Community spirit shines as volunteers transform bus stand

MANGALURU

Demonstrating a powerful example of community engagement, dedicated volunteers from the Ramakrishna Mission rolled up their sleeves for their regular monthly sanitation effort at the busy State Bank bus terminal. The comprehensive cleanup drive was organized as part of the Ramakrishna Mission's ongoing Swacchata Shramadan initiative, conducted in close association with the NITTE Institute of Physiotherapy.

The civic cleanliness drive received a strong send-off and moral boost from prominent local leaders, including Pastor Abraham Vinayalal Bangera from the CSI St. Paul's Church and respected ex-serviceman Gopinath Rao. Inspired by their presence, enthusiastic teams of student volunteers and citizens immediately tackled stubborn, overflowing drain blockages by hand and cleared large heaps of discarded single-use plastic waste from the terminal premises.

To give the transit hub a complete face-lift, the workers utilized high-pressure water jets to thoroughly refresh the concrete walls, which are adorned with beautiful local cultural murals. Simultaneously, diligent sweeping teams and heavy municipal dump trucks worked in tandem to clear out accumulated debris, wet mud, and litter from the damp footpaths.

This highly coordinated weekend push effectively highlights the strong, vital ties shared between conscious residents, educational institutions, and city authorities in keeping high-traffic public spaces clean, hygienic, and welcoming. Organizers stated that such regular citizen-led interventions are crucial for maintaining urban infrastructure, fostering a deep sense of civic responsibility, and ensuring a healthier environment for thousands of daily commuters.

Prioritize eco-friendly innovations, Future engineers urged

KUNDAPUR

Environmental protection must extend beyond a single day of celebration to counter the escalating pressures that modern technological developments place on nature, stated Kundapur Social Forestry Zonal Officer Tulsi.

Speaking after launching a World Environment Day initiative by planting tree saplings at Mudlakatte Engineering College, Tulsi urged the next generation of engineers to place eco-friendly innovations at the forefront of their designs and called on the general public to actively nurture plant life in their daily routines.

Sub-Zonal Forest Officer Nagesh Billava, who attended as the chief guest, reinforced the message by reminding the audience that human survival is inextricably linked to the preservation of forests and the broader ecosystem. He noted that developing a spontaneous, genuine concern for nature is an urgent necessity in today's industrial landscape.

The institutional event was presided over by the college principal, Dr. Ramakrishna Hegde, who led the attendees in taking a collective pledge dedicated to environmental conservation. The green initiative was organized by Prof. Bala Nageshwar and saw active participation from the college's faculty, non-teaching staff, and engineering students.

Bylaw committee for Puttur medical college to be formed shortly

PUTTUR

The foundational process of forming the high-level Bylaw Committee for the proposed government Medical College and Hospital in Puttur is set to begin soon. Dr. Kishore, the newly appointed Nodal Officer for the ambitious state project, recently visited the constituency and held extensive preliminary discussions with Puttur MLA Ashok Kumar Rai at the local Tourist Bhavan.

MLA Ashok Rai emphasized that establishing a robust Bylaw Committee is an absolute prerequisite during the initial stages of setting up the medical college and its affiliated hospital. He confirmed that the state government is moving swiftly and will formally constitute this high-level committee within the next fifteen days to expedite the project. The specialized committee will boast a powerful administrative lineup, including the state Medical Education Minister, the Principal Secretary of the Medical Education Department, the Finance Secretary, the Public Works Department Secretary, senior officials from the Planning Department, and the Puttur MLA.

WASTE-FREE-FUTURE

Railway hub turns stage for plastic-free push

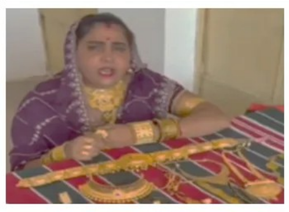
MANGALURU

The Mangaluru City Corporation transformed the bustling Mangaluru Central Railway Station into a dynamic platform for environmental action through a compelling street play. The creative event successfully turned an ordinary, high-traffic transit hub into an inspiring venue for immediate ecological change.

Travelers paused their journeys as energetic street play performers dressed in bright, uniform red costumes brought the harmful, long-term effects of plastic waste to life with dramatic flair. The public performance successfully captured the attention of hundreds of rushing passengers, turning daily commuters into an engaged audience. Following the theatrical demonstration, senior officials from the municipal corporation, alongside dedicated railway staff and curious onlookers, united to take a heartfelt collective oath to champion sustainability and completely reject single-use plastics.

This unique initiative, organized under the joint banners of the Swachh Bharat Mission Urban and local World Environment Day observances, aimed to spark immediate grassroots awareness. By effectively weaving powerful environmental messages directly into the everyday routines of citizens, the event encouraged lasting shifts toward responsible consumption. Organizers emphasized that targeting public transport hubs is essential for spreading civic messages widely, ultimately fostering a cleaner coastal environment for future generations.

QUICK READ



YouTuber's house burgled, valuables worth lakhs stolen

Shivpuri
A burglary at the home of YouTuber Rachna Gurjar in Mohani village of Madhya Pradesh's Shivpuri district has raised concerns about safety and social media exposure. According to police, unidentified burglars entered the house around 2 a.m. on Saturday, locked the family inside a room and stole gold and silver jewellery, cash and other valuables worth Rs 8 lakh to Rs 10 lakh. Gurjar said the thieves also changed the angles of CCTV cameras to avoid being identified. A complaint has been registered at Narwar police station, and an investigation is underway.

Customs seize cannabis worth Rs 5.38 crore

New Delhi
Customs officials at Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport seized 15.38 kilograms of suspected hydroponic cannabis worth about Rs 5.38 crore from two passengers arriving from Kuala Lumpur. The seizure was made on Sunday after officers, acting on intelligence inputs and passenger profiling, stopped the travelers after they crossed the Green Channel. During inspection, officials found two newly purchased geysers in their luggage. X-ray screening revealed suspicious objects hidden inside the appliances. After dismantling the geysers, Customs officers uncovered the concealed cannabis. Further investigation into the smuggling attempt is underway.

CBI files fresh charge sheet in fraud case

New Delhi
The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has filed its 11th charge sheet in an alleged homebuyers' fraud case involving real estate developers. The latest charge sheet names M/s Ninex Developers Ltd. and one of its directors in connection with a housing project in Gurugram, Haryana. According to the CBI, the accused allegedly misled homebuyers and investors through false promises and deceptive claims, inducing them to invest large sums of money. The agency said its investigation found evidence of irregularities in the collection and use of funds, causing significant losses to buyers. The charge sheet has been filed before a competent court.

12 YEAR OF PM MODI

Welfare of poor remains govt's core focus: Modi

NEW DELHI

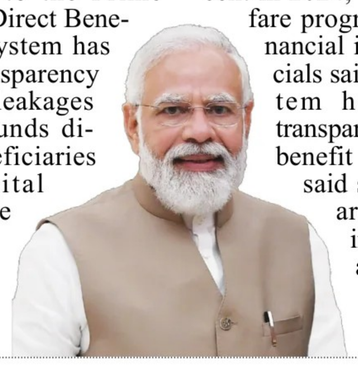
Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday highlighted the impact of welfare programmes launched over the past 12 years, saying they have improved the lives of millions of people and strengthened social inclusion across the country.

Marking 12 years of the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana (PMGKY) and related welfare initiatives, Modi said the government's approach has been guided by the principle of "Antyodaya", which focuses on ensuring that development reaches the poorest and most disadvantaged sections of society.

In a post on social media platform X, the Prime Minister said several flagship schemes have helped provide financial security, housing, healthcare, sanitation and basic services to citizens. He cited initiatives such as Jan Dhan Yojana, Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT), Swachh Bharat Mission, PM Awas Yojana, Jal Jeevan Mission and Ayushman Bharat as key contributors to improving living standards.

Modi said welfare programmes were designed not only to offer assistance but also to provide dignity, opportunity and equal access to development benefits. He noted that technology has played an important role in ensuring efficient delivery of government support.

According to the Prime Minister, the Direct Benefit Transfer system has improved transparency and reduced leakages by sending funds directly to beneficiaries through digital platforms. He said the system has minimized the role of intermediaries, increased efficiency and strengthened public trust in governance.



According to government data, rural poverty has dropped from about 26 per cent in 2012 to below 5 per cent in 2024, driven by welfare programmes and financial inclusion. Officials said the DBT system has improved transparency and faster benefit delivery. Modi said such initiatives are key to building a developed and inclusive India.

Pinarayi blasts Reddy over Hitler remark

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Former Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan on Monday strongly criticised Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy for linking the name of the Hyderabad Disaster Response and Asset Protection Agency (HYDRAA) to Adolf Hitler during a recent public event.

In a Facebook post, Vijayan described Reddy's remarks as shocking and inappropriate for a leader serving in a democratic country. He said it was unfortunate that a chief minister would appear to praise a figure widely regarded as one of history's most notorious fascist leaders. Vijayan further stated that such comments were an insult to democratic values and society.

The controversy began after remarks made by Revanth Reddy at an event in Bengaluru on Saturday. While explaining the reason behind the creation of HYDRAA, he said the agency was established to tackle widespread encroachments on lakes, nalas and other public water bodies in Hyderabad.

Speaking about the agency's name, Reddy claimed that "Hydra" was Hitler's favourite word and referred to a special group associated with him. He added that he had drawn inspiration from the concept while naming HYDRAA. At the same time, he stressed that the agency's purpose was to protect public assets and remove illegal encroachments.

The Hyderabad Disaster Response and Asset Protection Agency was set up by the Telangana government in July 2024 to safeguard government lands.

Morocco seeks deeper economic ties with India

NEW DELHI

Morocco is looking to strengthen its economic partnership with India by encouraging greater investment and business cooperation across several key sectors. The North African country is positioning itself as a strategic gateway for Indian companies seeking access to European and African markets.

Morocco has emerged as an important industrial centre and is already a major supplier of phosphates to India. The country is now inviting Indian industries to explore opportunities in defence, automotive manufacturing, aerospace, green technologies and logistics.The push for stronger economic ties comes as India and Morocco have increased high-level engagements over the past year. In September last year, Union Minister of

Morocco is inviting Indian businesses to expand investments and use the country as a gateway to European and African markets

State for External Affairs Kirti Vardhan Singh held talks in New Delhi with Moroccan Secretary of State for Foreign Trade Omar Hejira. Both leaders discussed ways to expand cooperation and strengthen bilateral relations.

A major boost to the relationship came during Defence Minister Rajnath Singh's visit to Morocco, the first by an Indian Defence Minister. During the visit, the two countries signed a Memorandum of Understanding on defence cooperation. Discussions also covered counter-terrorism, maritime security, cyber defence and capacity building.

A major highlight of the visit was the opening of Tata Advanced Systems' defence manufacturing facility in Berrechid by Rajnath Singh and Moroccan Defence Minister Abdelatif Loudyi. The plant will produce the WhAP 8x8 armoured vehicle. Both countries are also exploring cooperation in pharmaceuticals, chemicals and manufacturing. Ranked Africa's top industrial economy in 2025, Morocco has become the continent's largest automotive exporter and a fast-growing vehicle production centre.

NDA questions Cong after Gehlot claims 'conspiracy' over prez bid

NEW DELHI

Former Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot's recent statement about a "big conspiracy" that allegedly prevented him from becoming Congress president in 2022 has sparked a new political debate, with leaders of the NDA questioning the Congress party's internal functioning and leadership structure.

Reacting to Gehlot's comments, BJP National Spokesperson Shehzad Poonawalla said the statement reflected growing divisions within the Congress. He claimed that what was once seen as a political rivalry between Gehlot and Sachin Pilot now appeared to have turned into a conflict involving Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge. According to him, Gehlot's remarks were being viewed as a direct criticism of the party leadership.

Leaders of the Janata Dal (United) also criticised the Congress and suggested that the party was facing organisational challenges. JD(U) Chief Spokesperson Neeraj Kumar questioned who was responsible for the alleged conspiracy and whether the Congress had adequate internal democracy. He also asked whether senior leaders within the party had played any role in the developments that Gehlot referred to.

JD(U) National Spokesperson Rajeev Ranjan Prasad echoed similar views. He said that if Gehlot believed he had been treated unfairly, he should clearly identify those responsible.

Prasad further alleged that internal conflicts and factional politics had weakened the Congress in several states over the years.

The controversy began after

Gehlot stated that he was prepared to take over as Congress president in 2022 but that a major conspiracy derailed his chances and damaged his public image. His comments have once again brought attention to long-standing factional disputes within the party.

The Congress has not yet issued an official response to the latest criticism. However, NDA leaders have used Gehlot's remarks to raise questions about the opposition party's unity, decision-making process and internal leadership structure.

TN absent from INDIA bloc meeting amid rift

CHENNAI

For the first time in recent years, Tamil Nadu was not represented at a meeting of the opposition INDIA bloc held on Monday. The absence reflected major political changes in the state following the recent Assembly elections.

Neither the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK), once one of the alliance's strongest southern partners, nor the ruling Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) took part in the meeting. While the DMK stayed away because of strained ties with the Congress, the TVK was not invited as it does not have representation in Parliament.

According to sources, participation in the INDIA bloc meeting was limited to parties that have members in either the Lok Sabha or the Rajya Sabha. Although the TVK won the Tamil Nadu Assembly elections and formed the government with Congress support, it currently has no MPs in Parliament.

Political observers said the TVK's absence was linked to a decision taken after the Assembly elections.

In an effort to strengthen its relationship with the Congress, the party reportedly allotted its only vacant Rajya Sabha seat to its ally, leaving itself without direct parliamentary representation.

The more significant political development, however, is the growing distance between the DMK and the Congress. The Congress ended its long-standing alliance with the DMK and joined hands with the TVK before the Assembly elections. The move helped the TVK form the government but created resentment within the DMK.

Senior DMK leaders have repeatedly criticised the Congress for abandoning a decades-old partnership in favour of a political rival.

Party leaders have also said they cannot ignore the feelings of party workers who remain unhappy over the split.

NAIDU MOURNS PILGRIMS KILLED IN BIHAR BUS ACCIDENT

AMARAVATI

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu on Monday expressed deep sorrow over the death of three pilgrims from the state in a road accident in Bihar. The victims were travelling in a tourist bus from Nellore district as part of a pilgrimage to religious sites, including Varanasi.

According to officials, the accident occurred late on Sunday near Aurangabad in Bihar when the bus carrying 46 pilgrims collided with another vehicle on National Highway 19. Three people died on the spot, while several others were injured.Naidu described the incident as tragic and extended his condolences to the families of the deceased. He also spoke with officials to review the situation and sought details about the treatment being provided to the injured passengers.

Officials informed the Chief Minister that 15 to 20 passengers suffered injuries in the accident.

Those with serious injuries were shifted to Anugrah Narayan Magadh Medical College and Hospital in Gaya for treatment. Authorities said all injured pilgrims currently undergoing treatment are stable.

The Chief Minister directed Andhra Pradesh officials to remain in close contact with the Bihar government and local administration to ensure all necessary assistance reaches the victims and their families.

He also instructed officials to make arrangements for the safe return of the surviving pilgrims to their hometowns.

BJP candidates file nominations for 4 Guj RS seats

GANDHINAGAR

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Monday filed nominations for all four Rajya Sabha seats from Gujarat that are scheduled to fall vacant later this month. The nominations were submitted on the final day allowed for filing papers for the biennial elections to the Upper House of Parliament.

The BJP candidates are Raju Shukla, Mansinh Parmar, Mukesh Rathwa and Jitendra Kanjaria.

They filed their nomination papers at the Gujarat Legislative Assembly in the presence of Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel, state BJP president Jagdish Vishwakarma, Deputy Chief Minister Harsh Sanghavi and several senior party leaders and ministers.

The party had announced the four candidates on June 4. The seats are becoming vacant on June 21 after the completion of the terms of Rajya Sabha members Ram Mokariya, Narhari Amin, Ramila Bara and Congress leader Shaktisinh Gohil.

PMLA Court rejects Soren's plea in land case

RANCHI

Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren suffered a legal setback on Monday after a special court hearing cases under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) rejected his plea seeking discharge from a money laundering case linked to 8.86 acres of land in Ranchi.

The case relates to the alleged illegal acquisition of land in the Shanti Nagar area of Badgai locality and subsequent money laundering allegations. The Enforcement Directorate (ED), which is investigating the matter, has named Soren as one of the accused.

The special PMLA court delivered its order after hearing arguments from both the prosecution and the defence. The court observed that the materials and allegations placed before it were sufficient to continue proceedings at this stage. As a result, Soren's application for discharge was dismissed.

HELPING THE NEEDY

Pawar seeks changes in farm loan waiver conditions

BARAMATI

Nationalist Congress Party (Sharadchandra Pawar) president Sharad Pawar on Monday called for changes in the conditions attached to the Maharashtra government's Rs 36,585 crore farm loan waiver scheme, saying the restrictions should be revised to ensure that deserving farmers receive the benefits.

Speaking to reporters in Baramati, Pawar said that instead of rejecting the scheme outright, efforts should be made to correct its shortcomings through discussion and cooperation. He noted that democracy requires constructive dialogue to address issues in government policies and improve their implementation.

Pawar said some of the conditions in the loan waiver programme have created difficulties for farmers.

He urged the state government to work with the Centre to remove these obstacles and make the scheme more effective. According to him, the focus should be on ensuring that farmers receive the promised relief rather than discarding the policy because of its flaws.The Punyashlok Ahilyadevi Holkar farm loan waiver scheme is expected to benefit 55.72 lakh farmers across Maharashtra and clear the land records of nearly 16.74 lakh farmers. However, the government has imposed strict eligibility rules. Current and former ministers, MPs, MLAs, MLCs and local body leaders have been excluded. Government employees and pensioners receiving more than Rs 25,000 per month, along with employees of public sector units, cooperative banks and sugar factories above the same income limit, are also ineligible. Income tax payers with non-agricultural earnings are excluded as well.

URBAN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY, KALABURAGI
Beside Mini Vidhan Soudha, Station Main road, Kalaburagi-585102 Email: commissionergda@gmail.com
No: KUDA/Tech/Bilalabad Park/ /2026-27/1056 Date: 08.06.2026

E-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTIFICATION (CALL 3)

Kalaburagi Urban Development Authority has invited e-procurement tender for the Development of Bilalabad Park & Playground in ward no. 19 of Bilalabad colony near Rehaman Majid in Kalaburagi city. Amount put to tender is as per e-procurement portal. The last date for submission of tender bids by eligible registered PWD Class-I, Contractors in two cover system (KW-4). Last date for Tender submission is **23.06.2026 up to 5:30 PM**. Technical bid opening date is **25.06.2026 at 11:00 AM,** Financial bid opening date is **29.06.2026 at 11:00 AM.** All the details of the tender can be obtained from the e-procurement website **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** For further details, contact to Assistant Executive Engineer, Urban Development Authority, Kalaburagi during the office hours.

Sd/- Commissioner
DIPR/Kalaburagi/194/KSMC&A/2026-27 **Urban Development Authority Kalaburagi.**

CH CLASSIFIEDS
To place a classified ad contact: **080-41209042**

QUICK READ

13 injured patients stable after Delhi fire

New Delhi

Thirteen patients, including 12 foreign nationals injured in the June 3 hotel fire in Malviya Nagar, remain admitted to Max Hospital, Saket. Hospital officials said one patient is on ventilator support but is clinically stable and showing improvement. Two patients were discharged on Sunday. Of those still admitted, eight are in the ICU and four are being treated in general wards. Doctors said all patients are recovering satisfactorily and are under close monitoring. The fire at Flourish Stays B&B claimed 22 lives and injured 25 people.

16 injured after minibus skids off road in Rajouri

Jammu

At least 15 people were injured after a minibus skidded off the road in the Tandwal area of Rajouri district on Monday. Officials said the accident took place on the Jammu-Rajouri-Poonch National Highway when the driver lost control of the vehicle. All injured passengers were shifted to a hospital for treatment. Police have registered a case and started an investigation. Authorities said poor road conditions, overspeeding, overloading and rash driving are major causes of frequent accidents in the region.

SC seeks CBSE's reply on student result

New Delhi

The Supreme Court on Monday issued a notice to the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) on a plea filed by a Class 12 student from Saudi Arabia seeking declaration of his improvement examination result. A bench of Justices Manmohan and Vijay Bishnoi said the matter concerned the student's future and noted that delayed results could affect college admissions. The court directed CBSE's counsel to obtain instructions and respond. The student, Pransu Jigarkumar Patel, alleged that his result had not been declared despite a special assessment scheme for Gulf countries where examinations were cancelled.

Fire on oil tanker carrying 24 Indians off Oman coast

The Madagascar-flagged MT Marivex was not carrying cargo and all crew members were safe.

NEW DELHI

The Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways (MoPSW) on Monday confirmed a fire incident aboard MT Marivex, a vessel carrying 24 Indian seafarers, located south of the Strait of Hormuz. Officials said all crew members are safe and being monitored closely.

Director in the Shipping Division, Opesh Kumar Sharma, said the fire was reported around 1:30 pm. He clarified that the information is still preliminary and authorities are gathering full details of the incident. He added that,

based on available inputs, all Indian seafarers on board are safe.

The ministry said it is coordinating with the Ministry of External Affairs, Indian missions abroad, the Indian Navy and the Ministry of Defence to ensure the safety and well-being of the crew. Officials are also in constant touch with the vessel's owners and the Indian mission in Oman to verify facts.

Sharma said it is not yet confirmed whether the ship was hit by any projectile. He said investigations are ongoing to establish the exact cause of the fire.

He also noted that the vessel was well outside the Strait of Hormuz and located to its south at the time of the incident.

According to the ministry, the oil tanker was not carrying any cargo and was sailing in ballast condition. Only Indian seafarers were present on board the ship during the incident.

Sharma also shared that the Directorate General of Shipping control room has received over 12,000 calls and more than 26,000 emails since its activation. In the last 96 hours alone, hundreds of calls and emails were handled from seafarers, families and maritime stakeholders.

He added that more than 3,500 Indian seafarers have been safely repatriated so far. Port operations across India, he said, continue to remain normal without any congestion or disruption reported anywhere in the country.

Hydroponic weed worth crores seized at IG Airport

NEW DELHI

Customs officials at Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport seized 15.38 kg of suspected hydroponic weed worth around Rs 5.38 crore and arrested two passengers arriving from Kuala Lumpur, officials said on Monday.

The passengers were intercepted on June 7 after crossing the green channel based on specific intelligence and profiling.

During inspection, officers became suspicious after noticing two brand-new geysers among their luggage. Further questioning and examination of their mobile phone communications raised additional concerns.

Internet suspended as bulldozers raze 'illegal' religious structures

JAIPUR

Authorities suspended mobile internet services and deployed heavy security before beginning an anti-encroachment drive in Jaipur.

Mobile internet services were suspended in several parts of Jaipur on Monday as authorities launched an anti-encroachment operation involving the demolition of five religious structures, including a mosque and two temples. Officials said the action is being carried out near the Nandpuri underpass in Jagatpura to facilitate the widening of a road running parallel to a railway line.

The Jaipur Development Authority (JDA) is overseeing the exercise, which aims to expand the road to a width of 80 feet. According to officials, the structures marked for demolition include a mosque, two temples, a satsang building and a mazar.

To maintain law and order, around 3,000 police personnel have been deployed across the area.

Authorities have also imposed restrictions on movement in parts of the locality and are monitoring the situation through drone surveillance.

Officials said the JDA had earlier removed 134 encroachments from the road and later provided time to those managing the religious structures and other stakeholders to voluntarily remove the constructions.

As the deadline expired without complete compliance, the authority proceeded with the demolition drive under tight security arrangements.

Mobile internet, social media access, SMS and MMS services were suspended in parts of Jaipur from June 8 to June 9, while voice calls continued.

Officials said the move was aimed at preventing rumours and maintaining order. Police warned of strict action against misinformation, and electricity supply was temporarily cut in the affected area.

Pak faces deep revenue crisis amid massive tax shortfall

NEW DELHI

Pakistan is facing growing economic pressure after its tax collection agency reported a revenue shortfall of nearly Rs 684 billion during the first ten months of the current financial year. The development has raised fresh concerns about the country's already fragile financial situation.

According to a report published by Maldives Insight, Pakistan's Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) has failed to meet its collection targets despite introducing several tax measures. The report said the revenue gap has become a major factor behind the country's wider economic instability as it continues to deal with high inflation, rising debt and regular scrutiny from the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

The shortfall has once again brought criticism of the FBR, which has long faced allegations of inefficiency, corruption and weak administration. Source noted that the agency remained behind its targets from the beginning of the financial year, even after increasing taxes on salaried employees and registered businesses.

The FBR blamed part of the decline on disruptions in trade caused by conflicts in the Middle East, which affected import-related taxes and excise duties.

However, economists and media observers argued that external factors alone cannot explain the repeated failure to achieve revenue goals.

Experts say the agency continues to depend heavily on existing taxpayers instead of widening the tax base.

As a result, salaried workers and formal businesses are carrying a heavy tax burden, while sectors such as agriculture, real estate, wholesale trade and parts of the professional class continue to remain lightly taxed or outside the formal tax system, worsening the crisis further nationwide.

NDA candidates file nominations for Bihar MLC poll

PATNA

On the last day for filing nominations for the Bihar Legislative Council (MLC) elections, all nine candidates of the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) submitted their nomination papers at the Bihar Legislative Assembly, marking an important step in the upcoming polls.

Among the key candidates was Bihar Health Minister Nishant Kumar, who arrived at the Assembly along with JD(U) Working President Sanjay Jha. After filing his nomination, Kumar thanked his party for showing confidence in him. He said he would work hard to help achieve the vision of a developed Bihar and fulfil the dreams set for the state's progress.

BJP leader and popular Bhojpuri actor Pawan Singh also filed his nomination. His arrival attracted significant attention as he reached the Assembly in a luxury Land Cruiser vehicle. A large number of supporters and party workers accompanied him, including his elder brother Guddu Singh.

Though he did not speak to the media, Pawan Singh expressed gratitude to the BJP leadership for selecting him as a candidate.Other NDA candidates who completed the nomination process included Ashraf Ansari of LJP (Ram Vilas), BJP leader Sanjay Mayukh and JD(U) candidate Bharti Mehta.

Cops foil airport kidnap plot, arrest 13 suspects

MALAPPURAM

Kerala Police have foiled an alleged plot to abduct an international passenger and rob him of gold and cash near Karipur Airport in Malappuram district. Thirteen people have been arrested in connection with the case, officials said on Monday.

According to the First Information Report (FIR), the accused had gathered outside the airport with plans to kidnap a passenger identified as Subair, who had arrived from abroad. The group allegedly intended to seize the gold and money believed to be in his possession.

Acting on a tip-off, police launched a special operation and detained the suspects from the airport premises at around 10 pm on Sunday before they could carry out their plan. The arrested individuals are residents of Kannur, Kozhikode and Malappuram districts in Kerala, as well as Kodagu district in neighbouring Karnataka.

During the investigation, police examined mobile phones seized from the accused and found evidence suggesting that more people were involved in the conspiracy.

Officials said several suspects managed to flee after noticing the presence of police personnel near the airport.

TN won't implement new Waqf Act: Min

CHENNAI

Tamil Nadu has once again expressed its opposition to the implementation of the new Waqf Act.

Minority Welfare Minister SM Nasar Shahjahan said on Monday that the state government will not enforce certain key provisions of the amended law and will also not immediately meet the Centre's deadline for uploading Waqf property details to the Unified Waqf Management, Empowerment, Efficiency and Development (UMEED) portal.

The minister made the announcement while welcoming the first batch of Hajj pilgrims returning from Saudi Arabia at Chennai International Airport.

Speaking to reporters, Shahjahan said the state has faced several administrative and practical difficulties in uploading records of Waqf properties to the centralised digital platform. Because of these challenges, the Tamil Nadu government plans to approach the Union government and request additional time to complete the process.

He also said that resolutions opposing certain provisions of the amended law and its implementation are likely to be passed in the coming days. The minister strongly objected to the provision that allows the appointment of a non-Muslim member to the Waqf Board.

According to him, Tamil Nadu has not implemented this provision and has no plans to do so in the future.

Shahjahan stated that both the previous and present state governments have maintained the same stand on the issue. He said Tamil Nadu's position against implementing the new Act remains unchanged.

Amid ongoing discussions over the revised Waqf law, Shahjahan welcomed 417 returning Hajj pilgrims and reviewed the Rs 40-crore Hajj House project near Chennai airport, scheduled for completion in 2027.

BJP leaders file nominations for Rajasthan RS polls

JAIPUR

Senior Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leaders Satish Poonia and Alka Singh Gurjar on Monday filed their nomination papers as the party's candidates for the upcoming Rajya Sabha elections from Rajasthan.

Before submitting his nomination, Satish Poonia visited the famous Shri Govind Dev Ji Temple in Jaipur and offered prayers. He later shared on social media that he had sought blessings from the presiding deity of the city before beginning the nomination process.

Several senior BJP leaders were present during the filing of nominations, including Chief Minister Bhajanlal Sharma, Deputy Chief Ministers Diya Kumari and Prem Chand Bairwa, Rajasthan BJP President Madan Rathore, party office-bearers, public representatives and workers.

Alka Singh Gurjar also filed her nomination papers in the presence of Chief Minister Sharma, former Chief Minister Vasundhara Raje, Madan Rathore and other senior leaders. Earlier in the day, both candidates met the Chief Minister at the BJP state headquarters, where he congratulated them and extended his best wishes.

Three Rajya Sabha seats from Rajasthan are due for election as the terms of Union Minister Ravneet Singh Bittu, BJP MP Rajendra Gehlot and Congress MP Neeraj Dangi will end on June 21. Voting for the seats is scheduled for June 18.

Political observers believe the BJP selected Poonia and Gurjar to strengthen its support among the influential Jat and Gurjar communities, which play a key role in many Assembly constituencies across the state. Gurjar's nomination is also being viewed as an effort to improve women's representation from Rajasthan in the Rajya Sabha.

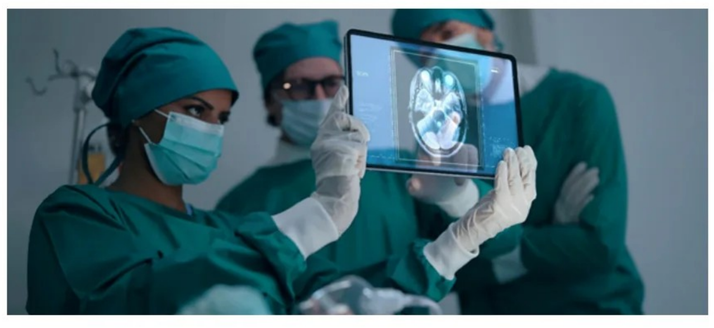
With the BJP enjoying a comfortable majority in the Rajasthan Assembly, both candidates are widely expected to win the election, while Congress is likely to secure the third seat.

AWAKE SURGERY

Patient watches film during complex brain surgery

AMARAVATI

Doctors at a private hospital in Andhra Pradesh successfully removed a brain tumour from a woman while she remained awake and watched her favourite actor's movie during the operation. The unusual procedure has drawn attention for highlighting the advanced technique known as awake bThe patient, Koteswaramma from Prakasam district, had been suffering from symptoms linked to a brain tumour and was referred to the hospital for specialised treatment. After



detailed medical examinations, doctors found that the tumour was located close to areas of the brain responsible for speech and movement. To reduce the risk of damage to these critical functions, surgeons decided to perform an awake brain surgery.

During the operation, Koteswaramma watched actor Pawan Kalyan's film They Call Him OG. Doctors said the movie was not played merely for entertainment. It helped keep the patient calm and allowed the medical team to monitor her brain functions throughout the surgery.

Experts explained that when tumours are located near important brain regions controlling speech, movement, vision or memory, keeping a patient fully unconscious can increase risks. If a vital pathway is accidentally affected, doctors may not know until the patient wakes up. By keeping the patient awake, surgeons can continuously assess responses and avoid damaging critical areas.Awake brain surgery allows doctors to monitor brain functions in real time by asking patients to speak, move, or respond during the procedure.

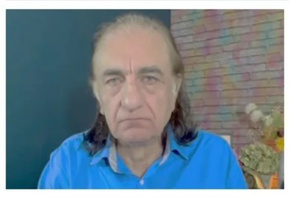
In Koteswaramma's case, watching a film helped doctors assess her attention and visual responses. Experts said the surgery is used only when needed, depending on the tumour's location. Patients in similar operations have also sung, talked, or played instruments to stay calm.

Government of Karnataka
Public Works Department, Special Division, Hunsur
Short Term tender Notification
(Through https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in)
IFT No:06/2026-27 Date: 05-06-2026

On behalf of Governor of Karnataka the under signed has invited itemwised tender for 5-works related to Hunsur Special Division as per terms and conditions of "standard tender documents" from the eligible registered contactors under PWD through KPP Portal. Maximum amount put to tender Rs.241.79 lakhs and Minimum amount put to tender Rs.18.64 lakhs, Maximum EMD amount of Rs.3,62,700/- and Minimum EMD amount of Rs. 46,600/-. Tender documents is downloaded from the https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in website for Sl no 1 from Dt: 05-06-2026 and for Sl no 2 to 5 from Dt: 06-06-2026 and Last date for submission of filled tender documents for Sl no 1 is Dt: 12-06-2026 and for Sl no2 to 5 is Dt: 20-06-2026 upto 16.00 Hours. Period for completion of works (including monsoon): Maximum 7-Months and Minimum 1-months. For more details visit the undersigned during office working hours

DIPR/DDMYS/274/KSMCA/191/2026-27 **Sd/- Executive Engineer**

QUICK READ



PoJK activist seeks UN action over crackdown

Scotland

Political activist Amjad Ayub Mirza has urged the United Nations to intervene over alleged violence against protesters in Rawalakot, Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir (PoJK). In a video statement, he claimed security forces carried out a crackdown on people demonstrating for economic, social, and civil rights. Mirza alleged that several civilians were killed or injured and that live ammunition was used. He called for an independent UN fact-finding mission, protection for civilians, and access for journalists and human rights groups. He also urged diplomatic efforts to prevent further tensions and encourage dialogue.

Over 50 schools shut, education claims questioned

Balochistan

The Balochistan government's claims of progress in the education sector have been questioned after residents of Kahan tehsil in Kohlu district alleged that more than 50 government schools remain closed. According to reports, several primary, middle, and high schools have been non-functional for a long time, affecting the education of hundreds of children. Residents said Kahan, with a population of about 250,000, continues to face neglect. They also highlighted shortages of healthcare services, poor road conditions, limited access to clean drinking water, and weak mobile network coverage, making daily life and emergency response more difficult.

BRICS emerges as key driver of global growth

BRICS nations are strengthening their economic influence, contributing significantly to global growth and technology exports

MOSCOW

Russian President Vladimir Putin said BRICS countries have become a major force in the world economy, accounting for nearly half of global GDP growth over the past five years. Speaking at the plenary session of the St. Petersburg International Economic Forum, Putin said the grouping now contributes around 40 per cent of global GDP based on purchasing power parity.

He noted that BRICS has expanded rapidly since its formation. According to Putin, the bloc's share of global merchandise trade has more than doubled, while trade among member countries has crossed USD 1 trillion. He also highlighted the growing technological capabilities of BRICS nations, saying they now account for more than one-third of the world's high-tech exports.

Putin pointed to China's leadership in artificial intelligence patents, India's strong role in the global software sector, and Russia's achievements in digital platforms, financial technology and nuclear energy. He said the world becomes fairer when economic growth includes billions of people who were previously outside the main centres of global development.He added that BRICS countries have contributed 49 per cent of global GDP growth in recent years.

Uzbekistan President Shavkat Mirziyoyev said cooperation with Russia has moved beyond trade and now includes technological partnerships, industrial supply chains and joint manufacturing projects. He stated that the value of ongoing Russia-Uzbekistan projects exceeds USD 50 billion.

Tanzanian President Samia Suluhu Hassan highlighted Africa's rising economic importance, noting that by 2050 one in four people worldwide will be African.

She also said Africa is expected to host nine of the world's 20 fastest-growing economies.

Chinese Vice President Han Zheng called for a fairer global governance system based on sovereign equality, international law and multilateral cooperation. The forum focused on the changing global economy and the growing role of emerging markets in shaping future development.

Xi begins landmark visit to North Korea

Jinping arrived in Pyongyang for talks with Kim Jong-un, focusing on bilateral ties, regional issues, and strategic co-op amid geopolitical tensions.

BEIJING

Chinese President Xi Jinping arrived in Pyongyang on Monday for his first official visit to North Korea in seven years, where he is expected to hold talks with North Korean leader Kim Jong-un. According to Chinese state media, the visit aims to strengthen the long-standing friendship between the two neighbouring countries and further develop bilateral relations.

Xi was welcomed at the airport by Kim Jong-un and his wife, Ri Sol Ju, along with senior North Korean officials. Xi is accompanied by his wife, Peng Liyuan, senior Communist Party official Cai Qi, and Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi during the two-day state visit.

The visit comes at a time of increasing diplomatic activity in the region. It follows recent visits by US President Donald Trump and Russian President Vladimir Putin to Beijing. It also takes place amid growing military cooperation between North Korea and Russia, which signed a mutual defence pact during Putin's visit to Pyongyang in 2024.

Ahead of the visit, Xi wrote in an article published in North Korea's official newspaper that relations between the two countries have entered a new stage with fresh opportunities for growth. He said China is ready to work closely with North Korea to strengthen strategic communication and deepen cooperation across political, economic and military fields.

This year marks the 65th anniversary of the China-North Korea Treaty of Friendship, Cooperation and Mutual Assistance. Xi said both nations should use the occasion to expand exchanges and strengthen coordination on international issues.

The visit also comes shortly after North Korea reiterated that its nuclear status is irreversible and reported successful tests of advanced missile systems, adding significance to the discussions between the two leaders.

Qatar-Iran discuss efforts to reduce tensions

DOHA

Qatar and Iran have discussed ongoing mediation efforts and the worsening security situation in West Asia amid rising regional tensions.

Qatar's Prime Minister Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani held a telephone conversation with Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi to review diplomatic initiatives and recent developments in the region.

According to an official statement, the two leaders discussed mediation efforts between the United States and Iran, as well as the latest situation in Lebanon.

Sheikh Mohammed reaffirmed Qatar's support for initiatives aimed at reducing tensions, promoting stability, and achieving lasting peace in the region.

The embassy urged Indians to avoid non-essential travel, follow official alerts, while Tehran advised citizens to leave Iran

India issues advisory amid regional security crisis

TEL AVIV

The Indian Embassy in Tel Aviv has issued a security advisory for Indian nationals living in Israel, asking them to remain extremely cautious as tensions continue to rise across West Asia.

In a statement posted on social media, the embassy advised Indian citizens to stay alert and strictly follow safety instructions issued by Israeli authorities and the Home Front Command. The mission urged people to remain close to designated shelters and identify the nearest protected spaces near their homes and workplaces.

The embassy also advised Indians to avoid all non-essential travel within Israel until further notice. Citizens were encouraged to stay updated through official announcements, emergency alerts and local news reports. Updated safety information has been made available through the Home Front Command's official website.

For emergencies, the embassy said Indian nationals can contact its 24-hour helpline and assured that it remains in close contact with relevant authorities while monitoring developments closely.

At the same time, the Indian Embassy in Tehran issued a separate high-priority advisory, urging Indian citizens not to travel to Iran. Those currently in Iran were advised to leave the country using available means of transport as soon as possible.

The advisories were issued as tensions in West Asia intensified. Israel and Iran exchanged fresh attacks on Monday, marking 100 days of conflict and raising concerns of a broader regional war. Reports said both sides targeted key installations and launched missile strikes. The situation worsened after the Iran-backed Houthi group announced restrictions on Israeli shipping in the Red Sea. Amid the uncertainty, Indian missions urged citizens to stay safe, avoid unnecessary travel, and closely follow official updates.

UN raises concerns over women detentions in Herat

KABUL

The United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) has expressed concern over the detention of women in Herat by Taliban authorities for alleged violations of dress requirements. The UN body said the arrests raise serious human rights concerns and reminded authorities that all people have the right to freedom of movement and equality before the law.

According to reports, Taliban morality police detained at least 21 women and girls in different parts of Herat, including the southern road, Almas Market and Qasr area. Local sources said those detained included a nurse employed at Herat Regional Hospital.The arrests reportedly followed a directive issued by the Taliban's Directorate for the Promotion of Virtue and Prevention of Vice in Herat. The directive instructed male family members to ensure that women comply with the Taliban's interpretation of Islamic dress rules.

Under the order, women appearing in public without a prayer veil, with uncovered faces, wearing tight clothing or makeup could face detention and be sent to a women's detention facility. Human rights groups have voiced concerns that such measures increase restrictions on women's freedoms and public participation.

The latest detentions come amid reports of stricter enforcement of the Taliban's morality law across Afghanistan. Since returning to power in 2021, the Taliban has imposed several restrictions on women and girls, including banning girls from attending secondary schools beyond sixth grade and preventing women from studying at universities.Concerns continue as girls remain excluded from Afghanistan's Kankor exams for a fourth year. Taliban officials said over 110,000 candidates participated in the first three examination rounds.

Rival parties seek probe into election ballot shortage

SEOUL

South Korea's ruling and opposition parties have separately requested a parliamentary investigation into the ballot shortages reported during last week's local elections. Both sides have called for a thorough inquiry into the incident, although they differ on how the probe should be conducted.

The ruling Democratic Party (DP) and the main opposition People Power Party (PPP) submitted their requests to the National Assembly on Monday. They are expected to hold further discussions to resolve differences before the proposal is presented for a parliamentary vote.

The PPP proposed the creation of an 18-member special committee that would conduct a 60-day investigation. Under the proposal, the committee would have equal representation from both parties, with a PPP member serving as chairperson.

According to the opposition party, the investigation should examine the reasons behind the ballot shortages, whether voters' rights were affected, and allegations concerning police actions during the removal of ballot boxes from a polling station.

The PPP also plans to introduce legislation seeking an independent counsel investigation into the matter.

The ruling DP said the National Election Commission (NEC) failed to respond properly despite being aware of the possibility of ballot shortages. Party lawmaker Cheon Jun-ho said the incident caused confusion among voters and raised unnecessary doubts about the fairness of the election process.

He said the probe should determine the cause of the incident, address flaws in election management, and suggest reforms to safeguard voting rights.

Ballot shortages at more than a dozen Seoul polling stations disrupted voting and sparked fraud allegations. Police later dispersed protesters and moved ballot boxes for counting.

Passengers evacuated after deadly drone strike on train

MOSCOW

Passengers travelling on trains across the Crimean Peninsula were evacuated after a drone strike targeted a Moscow-Simferopol passenger train. Authorities said one railway worker was killed and another injured in the attack, while passengers escaped unharmed.

The Grand Service Express rail operator announced that passengers from all trains operating in Crimea had been evacuated as a precaution. The company said travellers from three affected services were being transported by bus to Simferopol. These included Train No. 68 from Moscow to Simferopol, Train No. 77 from St. Petersburg to Simferopol, and Train No. 7 from St. Petersburg to Sevastopol.

Crimean Governor Sergey Aksyonov said the drone strike hit the locomotive of the Moscow-Simferopol train.

UKPNP PLANS STIR OVER RIGHTS CONCERNS IN POJK

LEEDS

Members of the Kashmiri diaspora gathered in Leeds to raise concerns about the human rights situation in Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir (PoJK), alleging restrictions on civil liberties and the use of force against residents by Pakistani authorities.

The meeting was attended by representatives of British political parties, community leaders and elected councillors. Participants discussed the ongoing unrest in PoJK, where protests led by the Joint Awami Action Committee have intensified over issues related to governance and political representation.

According to reports, recent clashes between protesters and security forces have resulted in at least 11 deaths and dozens of injuries.

Speakers at the gathering expressed concern over alleged human rights violations, particularly in Rawalakot and nearby areas.

Document Lost

This is to inform to General public that my client Sri, Y.Gangadhara s/o Late, Narayanappa, Residing at Palyakere Village, Near Urdu school,Cheluru Hobali, and Taluk, Chikkaballapura District, I am the Owner of the Below said Property,while Sale Deed for taken Digital copy ,have lost following Documents of property pertating to below Mentioned property Situated at Residing at Cheluru Village, Cheluru Hobali, and Taluk, Chikkaballapura District, had published the factum of lost of his Original Sale deed, Dated;-17-04-2004, Regd Sale Deed, Executed by C.Eshwaraiah s/o Late, Nadipi Chinnappa, in Favour of Sri, Y.Gangadhara s/o Late, Narayanappa, In regd as Book No.1,Volume No.BGP-1-00077/2004-05, IN CDNO BGPD 4, In regd before of the SRO Bagepalli ,in Respect of Property Bearing Cheluru Village,House List no.707, in Measuring 20x45 feets,police complaint have been filed with regards to loss of the above said Document vide complaint in NCR NO. Lost Report no.2244124/2026, DATED;-08-06-2026, and complaint dated;-08-06-2026, by respective person,if anybody finds these Document please inform within 7 Days in Below mentioned Address.

Place;-Chinthamani,
Date;-08-06-2026

K.S.HARISH KUMAR
ADVOCATE
Office: NEAR KISHORE SCHOOL, ABOVE APPOLO PHARMACY, BESIDE SANTHOSHI MATHA TEMPLE, BANGALORE MAIN ROAD CHINTHAMANI. ph-9980110692

IN THE COURT OF THE II ADDITIONAL CIVIL JUDGE AND JMFC AT DODDABALLAPURA
CMis.No.206/2026

Petitioners: Smt.Gangamma W/o Late Anjinappa.H.C Aged about 72 years, R/at Honnadevipra Village, Madhure Hobli Doddaballapura Taluk. Bengaluru Rural District and others. V/s

Respondent: Registrar of Birth and death The Tahshildar, Doddaballapura Taluk.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Whereas the Petitioners have filed the above petition under Section 13 (3) And 14 Of Registration Of Births And Deaths Act, 1969 for seeking the death certificate of the sister of petitioner No.1, mother petitioner No.2, eldermother of petitioner No.3 & 4 by name LATE KEMPAMMA W/O LATE ANJINAPPA.H.C who died on 11.02.1985 at Honnadevipura Village. Madhure Hobli. Doddaballapura Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District.

In this regard it is hereby notice that whoever has interested in the said matter may appear in 13-07-2026 person or through an advocate duly authorized before the above said court on In default this matter will be heard and disposed off an ex-parte order.

Given under my hand and seal of the court on 03-06-2026.

By order of the court
Chief Ministrial Officr, Prl. Civil Judge & JMFC Doddaballaur

Advocate **Karthikeya Yadav.G.N** Opp to Court Complex, 4th Ward, Rojjipura, Doddaballapur Town.
Date: 03.06.2026

IN THE COURT OF THE II ADDITIONAL CIVIL JUDGE AND JMFC AT DODDABALLAPURA
CMis.No.210/2026

Petitioners: Sri.Rudregowda S/o Late Channegowda Aged about 78 years, R/at Honnadevipra Village, Madhure Hobli Doddaballapura Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District and others. V/s

Respondent Registrar of Birth and death The Tahshildar Doddaballapura Taluk.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Whereas the Petitioners have filed the above petition under Section 13 (3) And 14 Of Registration Of Births And Deaths Act, 1969 for seeking the death certificate of the mother of petitioner No.1. mother in law petitioner No.2. grandmother of petitioner No.3 to 6 and 9 by name LATE NANJAMMA W/O LATE H.CHANNEGOWDA who died on 06.03.1988 at Honnadevipura Village, Madhure Hobli. Doddaballapura Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District.

In this regard it is hereby notice that whoever has interested in the said matter may appear in person or through an advocate duly authorized before the above said court on 13-07-26 In default this matter will be heard and disposed off an ex-parte order.

Given under my hand and seal of the court on 03-06.2026.

By order of the court
Chief Ministrial Officr, Prl. Civil Judge & JMFC Doddaballaur

Advocate: **Karthikeya Yadav.G.N**, Opp to Court Complex, 4th Ward, Rojjipura, Doddaballapur Town.
Date: 03.0.2026

GAS CRISIS

Hyderabad residents struggle amid prolonged gas crunch

ISLAMABAD

Residents of Hyderabad in Pakistan's Sindh province are facing severe difficulties due to an ongoing gas shortage, with many claiming that the limited supply schedule announced by the gas utility is not being followed.

The situation has particularly affected women managing household chores during the intense summer heat.

Under the schedule issued by Sui Southern Gas Company (SSGC), gas is supposed to be available for three hours each in the morning, afternoon and evening. However, residents from several parts of Hyderabad said they are either receiving no gas during these periods or experiencing extremely low pressure that makes cooking difficult.

Many households reported that gas pipelines carry only air for the first 15 to 20 minutes of the scheduled supply period. Women said they repeatedly check their stoves to see if gas has arrived and often leave burners open to release trapped air. This practice, they claim, increases gas bills because meters continue running despite the lack of usable gas.

A resident from Latifabad said families are spending hours preparing a single meal while paying for what they described as air passing through the pipelines. Frustration among residents has grown as daily routines are disrupted by the shortage.

The crisis has also led to increased demand for alternative cooking solutions. Sales of electric stoves, induction cooktops, ceramic cookers, solar ovens and LPG cylinders have reportedly risen. Lightweight fibreglass LPG cylinders are also becoming popular among consumers.

The Hyderabad complaints follow similar utility shortages in Karachi during Eidul Azha. Residents reported disruptions in water, gas and electricity despite official assurances, raising concerns about the reliability of essential services across Sindh during peak demand and extreme weather.

Mbappe, Cherki reportedly upset over FFF image rights deal with betting firm

French stars Mbappe and Cherki unhappy over image use in campaign

PARIS

French football stars Kylian Mbappe and Rayan Cherki have reportedly expressed strong displeasure over the French Football Federation's (FFF) handling of image rights after their photographs were used in a promotional campaign linked to betting operator Betclic.

According to reports, the two forwards were unhappy after the FFF allegedly authorised the use of their images for promotional purposes without clear communication regarding the final advertising context. The campaign is said to involve Betclic, an official commercial partner of the federation.

The development has reportedly created tension within the French national team camp ahead of the upcoming FIFA World Cup, where France are among the title favourites. Several other national team players, including Desire Doue, Michael Olise, and Ousmane Dembele, were also featured in the same promotional material.

The images were reportedly taken during a routine photoshoot at Clairefontaine, the French national team's traditional training base.

However, the players are said to have been unaware that the photographs would later be used in a betting-related advertising campaign, leading to concerns over consent and transparency.

Both Mbappe and Cherki have clarified that their issue is not with Betclic as a brand, but rather with the FFF's decision-making process and lack of communication. The players are reportedly seeking clarification from the federation and an explanation regarding how their image rights were used.

While discussions are ongoing, any immediate resolution is considered unlikely before France begin their World Cup campaign. The team is scheduled to open their Group I fixtures against Senegal on June 16, followed by matches against Iraq and Norway.

The controversy comes at a sensitive time for the French squad, which includes a star-studded lineup featuring Mbappe, Ousmane Dembele, Marcus Thuram, and a strong midfield anchored by Aurelien Tchouameni and N'Golo Kante.

The French Football Federation has not yet issued an official detailed response regarding the allegations, though the matter is expected to be addressed internally as the team continues preparations for the tournament.

Despite the off-field distraction, France remain focused on their World Cup ambitions, with expectations high for another deep run led by their experienced core and emerging young talents.

Teen sensations set to light up FIFA WC 2026 in USA and Mexico

NEW YORK, Mexico City

The FIFA World Cup 2026 in the United States and Mexico is set to showcase the next generation of global football stars, with teenage sensations from across the world ready to make their mark on the sport's biggest stage.

A total of 19 players aged between 17 and 19 from 15 different nations have been named in their respective senior squads, underlining the growing trust in youth talent at the highest level. The tournament is widely expected to serve as a breakthrough platform for these rising stars, who will be competing alongside established international icons.

Among the most talked-about young talents is Mexico's 17-year-old attacking midfielder Gilberto Mora, who represents Club Tijuana in Liga MX. Despite limited senior experience, Mora has already been included in the host nation's World Cup squad, with expectations high on his creativity and attacking flair.

Senegal will rely on 18-year-old winger Ibrahim Mbaye, who has already made 38 appearances for Paris Saint-Germain and boasts Champions League experience. His pace and versatility are expected to be valuable assets for the African side.

Egypt's Hamza Abdelkarim, also 18, has made headlines after becoming the first Egyptian to join FC Barcelona's youth setup, while Morocco's Ayyoub Bouaddi, a dynamic midfielder for Lille, arrives with strong European experience and growing interest from top clubs.

Spain's Lamine Yamal remains one of the brightest young stars in world football. At just 18, the FC Barcelona winger has already won multiple domestic titles and is seen as a key figure in Spain's title ambitions at the World Cup. wOther emerging names include Ivory Coast winger Yan Diomande, who currently plays in the Bundesliga with RB Leipzig, and Brazil's Endrick, the 19-year-old striker on loan at Lyon from Real Madrid, both of whom are expected to play important roles for their national teams.

With experience levels varying but talent in abundance, these teenage footballers represent the future of the game. As the World Cup unfolds across North America, all eyes will be on whether this new generation can rise to the pressure and deliver on football's grandest stage.

Yashas P and Prakruthi Rao strike gold at Indian Athletics Series 8

PUNE

The Indian Athletics Series 8 in Pune witnessed impressive performances from Karnataka's rising stars Yashas P and Prakruthi R Rao, who clinched gold medals in their respective events, highlighting the growing depth of sprint and middle-distance talent in the country.

Yashas P, India's fastest active 400m hurdler, showcased his versatility by winning the men's 400m flat race with a personal best timing of 46.82 seconds. The athlete, known for his strength in the hurdles, demonstrated strong endurance and race control to edge past a competitive field. His performance reaffirmed his status as one of India's most promising all-round track athletes heading into the international season.

In the women's 100m sprint, Karnataka's Prakruthi R Rao delivered another eye-catching performance, clocking a personal best of 11.65 seconds in a wind-aided race. The 18-year-old sprinter, who trains in Chennai, held her nerve against strong competition, finishing ahead of recent U-20 Asian Championships medallist Nipam, who clocked 11.69 seconds.

Christian Eriksen collapses during friendly against Ukraine, match abandoned

COPENHAGEN

Danish footballer Christian Eriksen collapsed on the pitch during a friendly match against Ukraine, prompting immediate medical attention and the eventual abandonment of the game, the Danish Football Federation confirmed.

In an official statement posted on social media platform X, the federation said that Eriksen was conscious and "doing well under the circumstances" following the incident. The statement also confirmed that the match had been called off as a precautionary measure after the on-field medical emergency.

The incident occurred during an international friendly, with players from both teams visibly shaken as medical staff rushed to attend to Eriksen. Officials quickly halted play and later decided not to resume the match, prioritising player safety and wellbeing.

Eriksen's collapse has once again raised concerns in the football world given his previous medical emergency during the UEFA European Championship in 2021, when he suffered a cardiac arrest during Denmark's opening match in Copenhagen.

On that occasion, he received life-saving cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) on the field before being stabilised and transported to hospital.

Following the 2021 incident, Eriksen was fitted with an implantable cardioverter-defibrillator (ICD), a device designed to regulate heart rhythm and prevent further life-threatening episodes. Despite that setback, he made a remarkable return to professional football and continued to represent both club and country at the highest level.

Nelly Korda wins U.S. Women's Open after dramatic final-putt finish

LOS ANGELES

World No. 1 Nelly Korda produced a nerve-shredding finish to win the U.S. Women's Open at Riviera on Sunday, securing her second consecutive major title after a final-hole moment that left spectators stunned and briefly unsure of the outcome.

Korda's closing 2 1/2-foot putt on the 18th hole appeared routine, but it caught the left edge and circled the cup before finally dropping in amid a wave of gasps and cheers. The dramatic finish capped a composed final-round 2-under 69, giving her a one-shot victory over England's Charley Hull and Mexico's Gaby Lopez.

The 27-year-old finished at 8-under 276 to claim her fourth career major title and extend a dominant stretch that has defined her season. Despite the victory, Korda admitted the finish tested her emotions to the limit.

"It's even sweeter with that ice cream swirl on the last hole," she said, referring to the rollercoaster final putt that nearly forced a playoff.

Korda's path to victory was far from straightforward. She entered the final round tied with several players after a week that required constant adjustments, including a mid-tournament grip change suggested by her sister Jessica. After a shaky opening round, she responded with back-to-back 67s to rejoin the lead group heading into Sunday.

The final round remained tightly contested throughout, with seven players separated by just two strokes at one stage. Korda stayed steady under pressure, avoiding a bogey on the back nine while challengers faltered in the windy conditions.

A crucial birdie on the 17th hole gave her the edge before the tense finish on 18. Hull and Lopez both pushed hard with strong closing rounds, but ultimately fell short in a tightly packed leaderboard that kept shifting until the final putt.

Korda, who also won earlier in the season at the Chevron Championship, has now recorded multiple victories and several runner-up finishes in a dominant campaign that has solidified her status at the top of women's golf.

"This week was definitely a grind," she said. "You don't always need your best game in majors, just the right mindset." As the putt dropped and relief turned into celebration, Korda smiled at the chaos of the moment—one that may come to define another milestone in her remarkable career.

Alexander Zverev finally wins French Open after years of heartbreak in Paris

PARIS

Alexander Zverev finally captured his maiden Grand Slam title after defeating Flavio Cobolli in a dramatic five-set French Open final. The German star overcame years of heartbreak, injuries, and missed opportunities at Roland Garros. Zverev's emotional triumph marked a career-defining breakthrough, transforming him into a long-awaited major champion.

Years of frustration, heartbreak, and near misses finally came to an emotional end for Alexander Zverev as the German star captured his maiden Grand Slam title at the French Open, breaking a long-standing barrier that had defined much of his career.

The world No. 3 collapsed onto the clay of Court Philippe-Chatrier after defeating Italy's Flavio Cobolli in a gripping five-set final, overwhelmed by emotion as memories from past disappointments in Paris flooded back. The victory marked a defining moment in Zverev's career, transforming him from one of the sport's most talented underachievers into a major champion.

This was the same court where Zverev suffered one of his darkest moments in 2022, when he twisted his ankle during a semifinal against Rafael Nadal and had to leave in a wheelchair. It was also the venue where he let a two-sets-to-one lead slip in the 2024 final against Carlos Alcaraz, extending his wait for a Grand Slam title.

"All the emotions came out because this court is very special to me," Zverev said after his victory. "It has given me some of the toughest moments of my life, but also now the best one."

The German triumphed 6-1, 4-6, 6-4, 6-7(5), 6-1 in a physically demanding match lasting over four hours. Cobolli fought bravely, pushing the contest into a deciding set, but Zverev's experience and composure proved decisive as he closed out the match on his second championship point.

With this win, Zverev secured his first Grand Slam title in his fourth major final, joining an elite group of players who achieved the feat, including Andre Agassi, Goran Ivanisevic, and Dominic Thiem.

The absence of top rivals Jannik Sinner and Carlos Alcaraz opened a rare opportunity in the draw, which Zverev seized with determination and consistency throughout the tournament. He also overcame earlier career scars, including the 2020 US Open final loss and the 2025 Australian Open defeat.

After lifting the Coupe des Mousquetaires, Zverev celebrated with visible relief, holding the trophy aloft as the Paris crowd acknowledged a long-awaited breakthrough.

"This title means everything," he said. "It changes how I believe in myself. Now I know I can do it again."

World Cup by the numbers: Biggest-ever tournament set to make history

NEW YORK

The 2026 FIFA World Cup is set to be the largest edition in the tournament's history, featuring 48 teams, 104 matches and three host nations — the United States, Canada and Mexico.

For the first time, the World Cup has expanded from 32 to 48 teams, adding a new Round of 32 and increasing the total number of matches from 64 to 104. The tournament will be played across 16 stadiums over 39 days, making it the most extensive World Cup ever staged.

A total of 1,248 players from 449 clubs across 71 countries will participate. England-based clubs contribute the highest number of players, while Premier League champions Manchester City lead all clubs with 19 representatives.

The tournament could also witness history from some of football's greatest stars. Portugal's Cristiano Ronaldo, with a record 226 international appearances, and Argentina's Lionel Messi are set to become the first players to feature in six World Cups. Messi enters the tournament with 13 World Cup goals, just three behind all-time leading scorer Miroslav Klose.

Only eight nations have won the World Cup since its inception in 1930. Brazil remains the most successful team with five titles and is the only country to have qualified for all 23 editions.

Defending finalists France will attempt to become only the third nation to reach three consecutive World Cup finals. Meanwhile, newcomers Cape Verde, Curaçao, Jordan and Uzbekistan will make their World Cup debuts.

With 40 additional matches compared to previous editions, the 2026 tournament is expected to surpass the record of 172 goals scored at the 2022 World Cup in Qatar, further cementing its place as a landmark event in football history.

Knicks return to NBA Finals at Madison Square Garden amid massive NY hype

NEW YORK

The NBA Finals have returned to Madison Square Garden for the first time in 27 years, turning New York into the centre of the basketball universe as the Knicks stand on the brink of a long-awaited championship run against the San Antonio Spurs.

With the Knicks holding a 2-0 lead over Victor Wembanyama's Spurs, the city has erupted in celebration and anticipation, with ticket prices soaring and demand reaching unprecedented levels. Yet inside the locker room, the team insists the job is far from finished.

"I know the fan base is really excited, as they should be," said captain Jalen Brunson. "But as a team, we have more work to do." The Knicks are halfway to their first NBA title since 1973,

and expectations continue to rise with each passing game.

Game 3, scheduled for Monday night, is expected to be one of the most high-profile sporting events ever hosted at Madison Square Garden. The match will also be attended by a sitting U.S. President, adding further global attention to an already historic occasion. The atmosphere around the arena has been described as electric, with fans, celebrities, and media converging on Manhattan to witness what could become a defining moment in Knicks history. From courtside stars to upper-level supporters, excitement has reached fever pitch across the city.

Spurs guard Dylan Harper acknowledged the magnitude of the moment, calling it a "dream-like atmosphere," while Spurs coach Mitch Johnson noted that even previous appearances at the arena cannot compare to the intensity of an NBA Finals setting.

The Knicks' dominant playoff run has meant limited home appearances in recent weeks, making their return to MSG even more significant. Players admit they are still processing the scale of what awaits them inside the iconic arena.

"I don't think I'm going to know what to expect," said guard Deuce McBride. "But I'm just proud to be here."

Madison Square Garden, which has hosted some of the most iconic moments in sports history, now prepares for another chapter as the Knicks look to move one step closer to ending their championship drought and delivering a long-awaited title to New York City.

Green future: India leads clean energy rush

India's $433 billion clean industrial pipeline secures its position as the world's third-largest global green energy hub.

NEW DELHI

India is rapidly turning into a global powerhouse for eco-friendly business. A new report reveals the nation now holds a massive $433 billion pipeline for clean industrial projects. This incredible growth secures India's spot as the world's third-largest hub for green industry, trailing only behind China and the United States.

According to reports, India's green pipeline shot up by 30 percent in just the last six months. The country currently boasts 65 major projects spread across 11 states, including Odisha, Gujarat, and Karnataka.

Local leaders are focusing heavily on green ammonia, which dominates the plans with 49 projects. However, the country is also expanding into clean aviation fuel, green methanol, and low-carbon aluminum. Major Indian companies like NTPC, Indian Oil, and Vedanta are leading this charge, aiming to replace traditional fossil fuels with cheap, renewable energy.

Experts call India a vital part of the world's new "industrial sunbelt." Faustine Delasalle, CEO of the Mission Possible Partnership, noted that clean energy protects economies from the unstable prices and supply shocks of fossil fuels.Meanwhile, an industrial leader in India, stated that the nation has a golden opportunity to become a top global exporter of clean fuels. The next big step for India is turning these grand promises into reality by securing steady funding and building stronger market demand over the coming decade.

Jan Dhan accounts hit 58 crore milestone

NEW DELHI

India has achieved an incredible milestone in helping its citizens join the formal economy. A new report reveals that bank accounts for the poor under the Jan Dhan scheme have now reached 58.15 crore, with total deposits crossing three lakh crore rupees. This massive effort, widely recognized as the world's largest financial inclusion project, primarily empowers women, who hold 56 percent of these accounts.

The report highlights how combining these bank accounts with digital mobile systems has completely transformed welfare delivery, ensuring government financial aid directly reaches individuals without any middlemen. This breakthrough forms the backbone of the nation's social security network.

Beyond banking, the government has rapidly expanded health coverage. Around 44 crore Ayushman Bharat health cards have been issued, offering five lakh rupees in annual medical cover to low-income families. The program now includes senior citizens aged 70 and above, alongside millions of community healthcare workers.

Living conditions have improved dramatically through several major infrastructure drives.

Over 15.7 crore homes now have tap water connections, 12 crore toilets have been built, and nearly three crore households have received electricity.

Banking giant SBI hands government major payout

NEW DELHI

State Bank of India, the nation's biggest lender, handed over a massive dividend cheque of 8,813 crore rupees to the central government. This large payout is for the financial year 2025-26 and marks a significant boost to the government's non-tax revenues.

SBI Chairman C.S. Setty personally presented the cheque to Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in New Delhi. The Finance Minister's Office later shared the news, celebrating the bank's strong financial performance. This massive contribution highlights SBI's dominant role in driving India's banking sector and digital payment systems forward.

The major payout comes at a time when the banking giant remains highly confident about the country's long-term economic growth. Speaking at a recent industry event in Mumbai, Chairman Setty shared a highly positive outlook for the future. He noted that a pause in interest rates by the Reserve Bank of India would keep financial conditions stable and support smooth economic expansion.

SBI
PRESIDENT OF INDIA
Eight Thousand Eight Hundred Thirteen Crore, Forty One Lakh, One Thousand,
Two Hundred And Forty Seven Only
₹ 8813,41,01,247.00

State Bank of India handed an ₹8,813 crore dividend cheque to the central government for FY26, boosting revenues amid strong optimism for long-term economic growth.

Furthermore, Setty urged everyday investors to stop focusing solely on short-term stock market ups and downs. Instead, he encouraged everyone to look at the bigger picture of India's structural transformation.

He emphasized that deep reforms in digital infrastructure, financial inclusion, and major development projects are creating a highly resilient economy.

MOROCCO INVITES INDIA FOR POWERFUL ECONOMIC ALLIANCE

NEW DELHI

Morocco is actively working to deepen its economic partnership with India, offering itself as a strategic gateway for Indian businesses to enter massive European and African markets. Already a critical provider of phosphates to India, the North African country is pitching fresh collaborations across several advanced industries, including defense, aerospace, automotive, logistics, and green technologies.

Bilateral relations have intensified significantly following multiple high-level diplomatic meetings. India's Defense Minister Rajnath Singh recently made a historic visit to Morocco, marking the first time an Indian defense chief has toured the nation. During his stay, the two countries signed a crucial agreement on defense cooperation, focusing heavily on maritime security, cyber defense, and counter-terrorism.

A major highlight of this defense push was the joint opening of a massive, 20,000-square-meter Tata Advanced Systems manufacturing plant in Berrechid. This advanced facility will produce cutting-edge combat vehicles designed in partnership with India's DRDO. Beyond military hardware, trade ministers from both nations have held extensive talks to boost trade in pharmaceuticals, chemicals, and advanced manufacturing.

Morocco's appeal as a premier industrial destination continues to skyrocket globally. The nation was recently crowned as Africa's top industrial economy in the 2025 Africa Industrialization Index by the African Development Bank Group. As the continent's largest car exporter and a global leader in vehicle manufacturing, Morocco provides an ideal launching pad for Indian exporters aiming to expand their global footprint over the coming decade.

Reliance Infra pivots into AI

NEW DELHI

Reliance Infrastructure announced that it is officially entering the artificial intelligence sector. The company plans to dive deep into the rapidly growing AI ecosystem and other advanced technologies through its smaller companies, aiming to mix modern technology into its traditional business framework.

According to a stock exchange filing, the corporate giant has updated the core business goals of its units to focus on AI and tech-enabled services. To clearly reflect this massive shift, the company renamed three of its key subsidiaries.

They will now operate as Reliance AI World Private Limited, Reliance AI Apex Private Limited, and Reliance AI One Private Limited. While the change signals a clear technical evolution, the group did not share any specific project timelines, financial budgets, or deep operational plans just yet.

Despite the lack of immediate project details, the market reacted with immense excitement. Following the announcement, Reliance Infrastructure shares instantly jumped five percent on the Bombay Stock Exchange, hitting their highest daily limit at 86.17 rupees.

India's warehouse stock hits 514 million feet

MUMBAI

India's industrial and warehousing real estate sector is growing rapidly, recording a huge leasing volume of 18.3 million square feet in the first quarter of 2026. According to reports, this massive surge has pushed the country's total warehouse stock to a staggering 514 million square feet across eight major cities.

The report notes that the market is currently on a clear path to hit 850 million square feet by 2030, highlighting India's rising status as a premier global manufacturing and supply hub. High-quality Grade A spaces saw a 20 percent jump compared to last year, now making up more than half of the country's entire inventory. Actual factory setups contributed 5.1 million square feet of the newly leased space this quarter, building directly on last year's highly successful momentum. Within this manufacturing block, heavy engineering companies took the lead with a 47 percent share, while automotive businesses followed closely behind at 32 percent.

Meanwhile, pure storage warehousing took the lion's share of quarterly activity at 13.2 million square feet. This specific demand was heavily driven by third-party logistics firms, followed closely by consumer sectors like e-commerce, retail, and fast-moving consumer goods.

Geographically, the western regions ruled the market. Mumbai and Pune commanded a dominant 43 percent share of total leasing activity. Delhi-NCR remained the vital northern gateway with 20 percent, while southern business hubs Bengaluru and Chennai tightly secured 13 percent and 12 percent respectively.

Air India and Tata Digital face review

NEW DELHI

Tata Trusts trustees held a meeting to review detailed presentations on the Tata Group's most capital-heavy and loss-making ventures, including Air India and Tata Digital. This high-profile gathering is highly significant, occurring just days before a pivotal Tata Sons board meeting set for June 12, where major leadership and capital decisions will be finalized.

The trustees will closely evaluate presentations regarding Air India, Tata Digital, and Tata Electronics. These discussions are expected to focus heavily on the core investment logic, daily operating performance, and ongoing financial losses within these newer business segments. While it remains unconfirmed who will actually deliver these reports, Tata Trusts Chairman Noel Tata is expected to share critical insights from the previous board meeting held on May 26.

Reports suggest that the conclusions reached during the session will directly shape future strategies regarding leadership roles and the speed of funding across the group's emerging businesses. Air India, Tata Digital, and Tata Electronics currently demand the most intense scrutiny because of their massive funding requirements and long timelines before turning a profit.

Furthermore, conversations within Tata Trusts have increasingly centered on long-term governance, succession planning, and the future trajectory of the entire conglomerate.

Experts demand new transport policy for cities

NEW DELHI

With India's vehicle fleet skyrocketing past 413 million, top experts are urgently demanding a brand-new urban transport framework. This call for action came as the Indian School of Public Policy launched a comprehensive review of the country's outdated 2006 transportation rules to tackle modern traffic chaos.

Official data shows a staggering surge in vehicle ownership, jumping from just 90 million in 2006 to over 413 million by 2025. Experts argue that past policies failed to deliver on public transit and walking paths. Instead, cities prioritized independent metro rail projects that were never properly integrated with local neighborhoods or broader mobility networks.

Furthermore, the old framework completely missed major modern challenges. Today's cities are struggling heavily with parking management, massive e-commerce deliveries, app-based ride services, and severe climate change impacts.

It has been noted that India historically viewed itself as a nation of villages, meaning cities were often treated as an afterthought. This lack of governance has only caused urban congestion to worsen.It has also been emphasized that cities will drive India's future economic growth, making a comprehensive plan absolutely vital. It's stated that the next generation of policy must weave transport directly into urban development to create truly liveable areas.

Additionally it has been warned that if public transit and walking remain inconvenient, citizens will always choose private cars, making reliable and accessible transit the only real way forward.

INDIA'S EMS BOOM

India's electronics market to hit $150 Billion

NEW DELHI

India's electronics manufacturing services market is on track for a massive explosion, potentially crossing 150 billion dollars by the financial year 2030. A new report reveals the sector has already skyrocketed from around 12 billion dollars in 2020 to 45 billion dollars in 2025, driven by strong local demand and government backing.

However, experts warn the industry faces a unique challenge. While India has become a global powerhouse for assembling smartphones and consumer tech, it still lacks deep roots in product design, high-tech components, and intellectual property. Currently, local factories must import up to 95 percent of their critical parts, which heavily limits profit margins.

The global tech assembly market is currently worth around 650 billion dollars and is expected to cross one trillion dollars by the early 2030s. Since India only controls six percent of this massive global pie, local leaders see an incredible window for future expansion.

To seize this opportunity, analysts urge Indian businesses to move past simple assembly lines and quickly master advanced engineering and product development.

Thanks to nearly 20 billion dollars in government incentives, India has successfully built an impressive manufacturing scale.

It has been emphasized that the next decade will be absolutely decisive. It has also been stated that true success will require close cooperation between the government and global tech brands to build deep component ecosystems, upgrade workforce skills, and turn India into a top-tier global electronics hub.

QUICK READ

South Korea plans smart tech future

SEOUL

President Lee Jae Myung announced that extra tax money from the booming chip industry must fund long-term growth. Instead of giving quick payouts, the government wants to invest this cash into future tech industries. President Lee also urged caution regarding public demands for tech companies to share extra profits directly with workers. He warned that forcing companies to distribute bonuses could scare away major global investors and hurt businesses. Lee believes these critical funds should build vital national projects that private companies cannot afford alone, securing the country's economic future.

China boosts nuclear power production rapidly

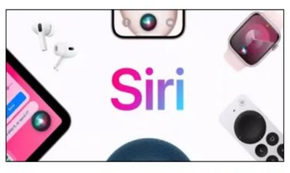
NEW DELHI

China has increased its nuclear power capacity by nearly eighty-seven percent over the past decade. The country now operates sixty reactors, providing massive amounts of clean energy. This rapid growth happened because China builds its power plants using a fast, standardized strategy. Instead of designing each plant from scratch, they build reactors in large groups to save money and time. China also makes its own parts to avoid relying on foreign companies. Their building time is just six years, which is much faster than the nine-year global average. More new reactors are opening this year.

Indian tech startups head to the UK

NEW DELHI

Nasscom just launched its new InnoTrek 2026 program to help Indian DeepTech startups grow worldwide. This week, a chosen group of brilliant tech founders will travel to the United Kingdom for the very first time. The goal is to connect these young companies with global investors, major businesses, and top leaders during London Tech Week. They will explore big opportunities in cities like London and Manchester. Experts say Indian startups are now creating great AI tools for global problems. This exciting trip will help them find new customers and safely fund their dreams abroad.



Apple set to unveil smarter, better Siri

NEW DELHI

Tech giant Apple is ready to show off its big new artificial intelligence features at its annual developer conference. The company wants to catch up with rivals by giving its famous voice assistant, Siri, a massive AI upgrade. Experts say Siri will soon handle complex chores, remember past conversations, and talk more like a real human. This event is also special because it is the final showcase for CEO Tim Cook. He is retiring in September after fifteen years. John Ternus will take over the company during this major shift into the future of AI.

India crush Afghanistan by innings and 300 runs in dominant Mullanpur Test win

India dominate Afghanistan with record innings victory in one-off Test match

NEW CHANDIGARH

The Indian cricket team delivered a commanding all-round performance to defeat Afghanistan by an innings and 300 runs in the only Test of the multi-format series at the Maharaja Yadavindra Singh International Cricket Stadium in Mullanpur, underlining their dominance in red-ball cricket.

After winning the toss and opting to bat first, India piled up a massive total of 568 before declaring their innings. The foundation was laid by key contributions across the top and middle order. Yashasvi Jaiswal was dismissed early for 24, but KL Rahul and Sai Sudharsan steadied the innings with fluent centuries and valuable partnerships. Rahul went on to score 100, while Sudharsan added 81 runs. Skipper Shubman Gill continued his excellent form with a stylish 126, while Rishabh Pant contributed 81. Washington Sundar added depth with a well-made 52 off 68 deliveries, helping India set a daunting total.

Afghanistan's bowling attack struggled to contain the flow of runs, with India dominating all sessions of the opening innings. In reply, Afghanistan were bowled out for just 152 runs, forcing them to follow on after conceding a massive 412-run deficit.

Rahmat Shah top-scored for the visitors with 60 runs off 135 balls, but received little support from the other end as India's bowling unit maintained relentless pressure throughout. Left-arm spinner Manav Suthar impressed with six wickets in the first innings, while Prasidh Krishna chipped in with three wickets and Washington Sundar picked up one.

Enforced to follow on, Afghanistan showed brief resistance through Sediqullah Atal, who made 42 off 80 deliveries. However, the rest of the batting lineup once again collapsed under pressure as India's spin-heavy attack took full control of the match.

In the second innings, Kuldeep Yadav and Washington Sundar led the charge with four and three wickets respectively, while Suthar and Mohammed Siraj added one wicket each.

Afghanistan were dismissed for just 112 runs in 35.5 overs, sealing a comprehensive defeat.

India's clinical execution with both bat and ball ensured a historic innings victory, reinforcing their depth and dominance in Test cricket ahead of upcoming limited-overs assignments.

Manav Suthar announces himself with sensational India Test debut spell

MULLANPUR

Left-arm spinner Manav Suthar announced himself on the international stage with a sensational debut performance against Afghanistan, finishing with match-defining figures that immediately placed him among India's finest ever debutant bowlers in Test cricket history.

The 23-year-old spinner claimed 6/33 in a commanding spell at the Maharaja Yadavindra Singh International Cricket Stadium in New Chandigarh, showcasing control, patience, and the ability to extract consistent turn. His effort not only helped India dominate the contest but also earned him a place in an elite list of Indian bowlers who have produced memorable debut performances in Test cricket.

Suthar's all-round impact also included a useful 28 runs with the bat, further highlighting his potential as a long-term asset for India in the longest format.

A bright future ahead for Manav Suthar

Suthar's performance has strengthened his case for long-term inclusion in India's Test plans. With strong domestic form already behind him, his debut suggests a player capable of handling pressure at the highest level. His composure, combined with his ability to contribute with both bat and ball, makes him a valuable multi-dimensional option.

While India's spin department remains highly competitive, Suthar's immediate impact ensures he has entered the conversation at the highest level. If nurtured carefully, his debut could mark the beginning of a significant international career in Test cricket.

5 best bowling figures on Test debut for India

1. Narendra Hirwani – 8/61 vs West Indies, Chennai, 1988 Narendra Hirwani produced one of the greatest Test debuts in history, dismantling the West Indies with remarkable control and variation. His 8/61 remains the best bowling figure by an Indian on debut, setting a benchmark that still stands unmatched.
2. Narendra Hirwani – 8/75 vs West Indies, Chennai, 1988 In the same Test, Hirwani followed up his first-innings heroics with another stunning spell. His match haul of 16 wickets remains one of the most extraordinary debut performances ever recorded in Test cricket.
3. Manav Suthar – 6/33 vs Afghanistan, New Chandigarh, 2026 Manav Suthar delivered a dream debut, using accuracy and sharp turn to trouble Afghanistan's batting lineup.
4. Ravichandran Ashwin – 6/47 vs West Indies, Delhi, 2011 Ravichandran Ashwin marked his arrival with an intelligent and controlled bowling display. His debut spell foreshadowed a career that would redefine modern spin bowling for India.
5. Syed Abid Ali – 6/55 vs Australia, Adelaide, 1967 Syed Abid Ali impressed in challenging overseas conditions, using movement and discipline to trouble Australia's batters and deliver one of India's finest fast-bowling debuts.

PCB considers sweeping Test overhaul after Bangladesh defeat

ISLAMABAD

Following Pakistan's 0–2 Test series defeat against Bangladesh, the Pakistan Cricket Board is considering a sweeping overhaul of its Test structure, with major changes under discussion in coaching, selection, and captaincy roles.

The Pakistan Cricket Board is reviewing the future of head coach Sarfaraz Ahmed and Test captain Shan Masood as part of a broader reset aimed at improving red-ball performances. According to sources, the board's advisors have urged a complete restructuring after what they termed a "disappointing" series outcome.

Officials within the PCB are also said to be in advanced discussions with former Pakistan cricketers Younis Khan and Mohammad Hafeez regarding potential leadership and management roles. Both former players have reportedly held preliminary talks with the board, though no final agreement has been reached yet.

A source indicated that one of the key proposals involves relieving Sarfaraz Ahmed of his senior coaching responsibilities and reassigning him to youth development, including the Under-19 and Pakistan A teams. However, this change is expected to depend on whether Younis Khan agrees to take up a more senior position within the setup, given his previous conditions for working with the board.

The future of Shan Masood as Test captain is also under scrutiny.

While the board is actively exploring leadership alternatives, Masood is believed to have requested continuity at least through the upcoming away series against West Indies and England.

In parallel, Mohammad Hafeez is being considered for a dual administrative role, potentially as chief selector and head of the international cricket operations department. However, discussions remain at an early stage, and concerns have been raised internally about the optics of appointing a former critic of the board into a senior position.

Tilak Varma, Mohammed Siraj among top buys in inaugural TG20 auction

HYDERABAD

India's T20 vice-captain Tilak Varma emerged as the most expensive player at the inaugural TG20 player auction held in Hyderabad, marking a high-profile start to the new franchise league ahead of its maiden season.

Tilak, who was recently appointed vice-captain of the Indian squad for the upcoming T20I tours of Ireland and England under captain Shreyas Iyer, was picked up by Medak Falcons for ₹33 lakh after intense bidding among franchises. His growing stature in Indian cricket and consistent performances in the shortest format made him one of the most sought-after names in the auction pool.

Fast bowler Mohammed Siraj also attracted significant attention, joining Warangal Warriors for ₹14 lakh. The right-arm pacer, known for his ability to deliver in powerplay and death overs, was among the marquee names in the auction and is expected to play a key role in the franchise's bowling attack.

Both Tilak Varma and Siraj were placed in the Icon Class category, which featured several high-profile domestic and international players. The auction also included A+ and A categories, offering franchises a wide range of talent across experience levels and formats.

Among uncapped players, all-rounder CV Milind stood out as the most expensive signing. He was acquired by Anvita Khammam Aces for ₹17 lakh, following strong interest from multiple teams. His recent domestic performances reportedly played a major role in driving up his value during the bidding process. The TG20 league, which is set to begin on June 21 at the Rajiv Gandhi International Cricket Stadium in Uppal, will feature eight franchises competing in a total of 32 matches over a 21-day period. The tournament aims to provide a platform for emerging talent while also showcasing established international and domestic stars.

I don't need to change personality for captaincy, says Shreyas Iyer

MUMBAI: India's newly appointed T20I captain Shreyas Iyer has said that taking up leadership of the national side will not force him to alter his personality, stressing that he intends to remain the same competitive and grounded individual who developed his game in Mumbai's intense cricketing culture. The 31-year-old was named India's T20I skipper, replacing Suryakumar Yadav, who recently led the side to the T20 World Cup title in March. The decision marks a significant transition in India's leadership setup as the team prepares for a new cycle in the shortest format. Iyer said he has always embraced challenges and views the new responsibility as an extension of his natural mindset rather than a shift in identity. He emphasized that leadership does not require him to become someone different, but rather to stay true to his core values. "I don't have to change my personality. I have to be the same person how I was before, and not try to be someone else or be under someone's shadow," Iyer said, underlining his approach to captaincy. Reflecting on his upbringing, Iyer highlighted the highly competitive nature of Mumbai cricket, where young players constantly strive to break into elite levels. He said this environment shaped his mentality and instilled a strong desire to win from an early age.

"My mindset was always about winning… whether it's about learning or winning, that is secondary," he added, noting that enjoying the game and maintaining competitiveness helped him evolve as a cricketer.

ICC Women's T20 World Cup a symbol of inclusive global game: Jay Shah

LONDON

The upcoming ICC Women's T20 World Cup, set to be staged in the United Kingdom from June 12 to July 5, has been described as a landmark event that reflects the International Cricket Council's broader commitment to building a more inclusive and global game.

Speaking at the official launch event held on the iconic Waterloo Bridge in London, ICC chairman Jay Shah said the tournament represents a significant milestone in the evolution of women's cricket.

The glittering ceremony brought together captains of all 12 participating teams, symbolising the growing stature and visibility of the women's game on the global stage.

Shah said the upcoming edition is expected to be the most ambitious and exciting in the tournament's history, highlighting the ICC's continued efforts to expand the reach and appeal of women's cricket across new audiences and regions.

He noted that the event is not just a competition but also a celebration of progress, opportunity and inclusion within the sport.

According to Shah, fan engagement activities planned across host cities such as Birmingham, Manchester, Leeds, Bristol and Southampton are designed to build anticipation and connect communities with the sport. Street cricket sessions, interactive games and entertainment programmes were also organised as part of the launch festivities, involving young participants from across the capital.

The ICC Women's T20 World Cup will feature 12 international teams competing for the prestigious title.

New Zealand enter the tournament as defending champions after their victory over South Africa in the 2024 final, while Australia remain the most successful side in the competition's history with six titles to their name.

India, led by Harmanpreet Kaur, will be among the strong contenders as they aim to win their maiden Women's T20 World Cup title, having recently claimed the 50-over crown last year.

With rising global competitiveness and increased fan interest, expectations are high for a fiercely contested tournament that could further elevate women's cricket to new heights.

MSK Prasad's 'rested not dropped' claim on Suryakumar Yadav sparks debate

MUMBAI

Former India chief selector MSK Prasad has stirred discussion in cricketing circles with his comments on Suryakumar Yadav's omission from India's T20I squad for the upcoming tours of Ireland and England. The squad announcement, made by the Ajit Agarkar-led selection committee, saw Shreyas Iyer take over as captain while Suryakumar was left out entirely, triggering widespread debate over India's selection strategy ahead of the next T20 World Cup cycle.

Suryakumar's exclusion came after a below-par IPL 2026 season with Mumbai Indians, where he managed 270 runs in 13 matches. His recent dip in T20I form, along with fitness considerations, has been cited as a possible reason for the selectors' decision. However, Prasad offered a contrasting interpretation, suggesting that the star batter has not been dropped but rested as part of workload management.

Prasad argued that it would be unusual for a World Cup-winning captain to be removed immediately after a major triumph. He pointed out that senior players such as Jasprit Bumrah and Hardik Pandya were also given breaks, implying that Suryakumar's omission could be part of a broader rotation policy. According to him, India's think tank may be carefully managing the workload of key performers to ensure long-term readiness.

"You don't drop your World Cup-winning captain like that and that too in the next international match itself," Prasad said, adding that all three players have been at the top of ICC rankings and remain vital to India's plans. He expressed confidence that they would return to the squad sooner rather than later, reinforcing the idea that the omission is temporary rather than permanent.

Meanwhile, Prasad also questioned the absence of Rajat Patidar from the T20I squad. The Royal Challengers Bengaluru captain enjoyed a stellar IPL 2026 season, scoring 501 runs at an average of 41.75 and a strike rate of 192.69, while leading his team to consecutive titles.

HARMANPREET EYES T20 WORLD CUP GLORY

LONDON

India captain Harmanpreet Kaur is confident her team has the ability to win the ICC Women's T20 World Cup 2026, urging her players to stay balanced and focus on playing quality cricket rather than being burdened by expectations.

Speaking at the Captains' Carnival in London ahead of the tournament, Harmanpreet said India's triumph in the 2025 Women's ODI World Cup had significantly boosted the profile of women's cricket across the country.

"We have the potential to win the World Cup. The key is to stay balanced — neither taking too much pressure nor becoming overconfident. We just need to focus on playing good T20 cricket," Harmanpreet said.

The skipper noted that India's recent success had inspired more young girls to take up the sport and expressed hope that another strong campaign would further accelerate the growth of women's cricket.

India enter the tournament as reigning ODI world champions and have been drawn in a challenging Group 1 alongside Australia, South Africa, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Netherlands.The Harmanpreet-led side will begin its campaign against arch-rivals Pakistan at Edgbaston in Birmingham on June 14 before facing the Netherlands, South Africa, Bangladesh and Australia in the group stage.

India will be looking to bounce back from a 4-1 T20I series defeat to South Africa and regain momentum on the global stage.

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